



President Barack Obama meets with President-elect Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico in the Oval Office of the White House, in Washington, Nov. 27, 2012. According to the White House, Obama and Nieto are to discuss a broad range of bilateral, regional and global issues during their meeting.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

Obama hails Mexico's Nieto at White House meeting

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama hailed an “ambitious reform agenda” set forth by the incoming president of Mexico as he and President-elect Enrique Peña Nieto met Tuesday at the White House. Obama said it was fitting that the men were meeting even before Peña Nieto takes office on Saturday, calling it a sign of the close relationship between the two countries.

“What happens in Mexico

has an impact on our society,” Obama said before the Oval Office meeting, which also included Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Obama said he had forged a close working relationship with outgoing Mexican President Felipe Calderon and was confident he could establish a similar “close personal and professional relationship” with Peña Nieto, leader of Mexico’s Institutional Revolutionary Party. Obama said he was

confident Mexico and the United States will be able to strengthen longstanding economic and trade ties, as well as increase security along their common border. He also said he would press ahead with comprehensive immigration reform and looked forward to cooperation from Peña Nieto in longstanding U.S. efforts to stem illegal immigration from Mexico. Peña Nieto congratulated Obama on winning a second term and said he was looking forward to strengthening already

close relations between the countries. Peña Nieto noted that both he and Obama are former legislators in their respective countries — giving them a deeper understanding of politics — and said both men were focused on job creation as their top priority. Peña Nieto praised Obama’s calls for immigration reform and said he would work with U.S. officials to address illegal immigration from Mexico. “We fully support your proposal,” Peña Nieto told Obama, in remarks that

were translated from Spanish. “We want to contribute. We want to be part of this.” Peña Nieto invited Obama to visit Mexico at any time, an offer Obama said he would consider.

Obama joked that he was “jealous” of Biden, who is leading a U.S. delegation to attend Peña Nieto’s inauguration on Saturday. About two-thirds of the more than 50 million Hispanics in the United States self-identify as being of Mexican descent, according to the Pew Hispanic Center. □

AROUND THE WORLD

Hugo Chavez heading back to Cuba

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez asked his country's legislature for permission to travel to Cuba for more medical treatment after spending much of the past 18 months fighting cancer. Tuesday's request said doctors have recommended Chavez "begin special treatment consisting of various sessions of hyperbaric oxygenation" and physical therapy to continue "consolidating the process of strengthening health." The request did not provide more details about the treatment. The request said Chavez will travel to Cuba, but did not state how long he will stay. Venezuelan law requires presidents to receive approval before leaving the country for extended periods. □

Russian court convicts MMA fighter

MOSCOW — A Moscow judge Tuesday convicted the world champion mixed martial arts fighter, Rasul Mirzaev, of negligently causing the death of a Russian college student during a fight outside a nightclub in August 2011. Mirzaev, 26, was born in Dagestan and is one of tens of thousands of immigrants from the North Caucasus who live in Moscow. He was convicted of killing Ivan Agafonov, a 19-year-old Russian student, outside a trendy nightclub in the capital. After announcing the verdict, Judge Andrei Fedin ordered Mirzaev released based on time served. The maximum sentence was two years in prison and he had been jailed since shortly after the episode. □

Yemeni sets self on fire near Cabinet

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Medical officials say a Yemeni man set himself on fire outside the Cabinet building in the capital Sanaa. The officials say Abdel-Hakim Hamoud Qasim is in critical condition after Tuesday's self-immolation. His cousin, Mohammed Qasim, says Abdel-Hakim was protesting a complaint he had filed to the Ministry of Petroleum against Canadian oil and gas company Nexen, which he worked for as a driver for 16 years until 2006. Mohammed says his cousin was severely injured on the job in Yemen and only paid \$3,000 after the accident. A similar act of self-immolation in Tunisia last year helped trigger a series of uprisings in Arab countries, including Yemen. □

Brazil deforestation hits record low

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon rainforest has dropped to its lowest level in 24 years, the government said Tuesday. Satellite imagery showed that 1,798 square miles (4,656 square kilometers) of the Amazon were deforested between August 2011 and July 2012, Environment Minister Izabella Teixeira said at a news conference. That's 27 percent less than the 2,478 square miles (6,418 square kilometers) deforested a year earlier. The margin of error is 10 percentage points. Brazil's National Institute for Space Research said the deforestation level is the lowest since it started measuring the destruction of the rainforest in 1988. Through July 2012 deforestation dropped by 76.26 percent. □

China creates new 'knowledge hub'

BEIJING (AP) — The World Bank and China are setting up a knowledge hub to share information about Beijing's success with poverty alleviation. The project aims to come up with new strategies to solve problems of rapid development, such as urban transportation. The hub will help experts around the globe communicate and learn from each other to find the best outcomes, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said at a signing ceremony Tuesday. Kim said that as China tackles these challenges, it is producing a "body of knowledge that can benefit many other countries." China has worked closely with the World Bank and claims to have raised 600 million people out of poverty over the past three decades. □

Protesters regroup in Cairo streets to denounce Morsi

HAMZA HENDAWI

SARAH EL DEEB

CAIRO (AP) — More than 200,000 people packed Cairo's central Tahrir square on Tuesday, chanting against Egypt's Islamist president in a powerful show of strength by the opposition demanding Mohammed Morsi revoke edicts granting himself near autocratic powers.

With the mass protests in Tahrir and in several other cities — comparable in size to those during last year's uprising that overthrew autocrat Hosni Mubarak — opposition to the decrees issued last week turned into

people want to bring down the regime," and "erhal, erhal" — Arabic for "leave, leave." "Suddenly Morsi is issuing laws and becoming the absolute ruler, holding all powers in his hands," said protester Mona Sadek, a 31-year-old engineering graduate who wears the Islamic veil, a hallmark of piety. "Our revolt against the decrees became a protest against the Brotherhood as well." But Gehad el-Haddad, a senior adviser to the Brotherhood and its political party, said the opposition was "very divided" and that Morsi would not back down. "We are not

ers on a stage in the square called for another mass rally on Friday. If the Brotherhood responds with mass rallies of its own, as some of its leaders have hinted, it would raise the prospect of greater violence after a series of clashes between the two camps in recent days. Even as the crowds swelled in Tahrir, clashes erupted nearby between several hundred young protesters throwing stones and police firing tear gas on a street off Tahrir leading to the U.S. Embassy. Clouds of tear gas hung close to the ground at the area. Clashes have been taking



Egyptians protest in Cairo, Nov. 27, 2012. Demonstrators began flowing into the streets of Cairo Tuesday for a day of protest against President Mohammed Morsi's effort to assert broad new powers, dismissing his efforts only hours before to reaffirm his deference to Egyptian law and courts. (Tara Todras-Whitehill/The New York Times).

a broader outpouring of anger against the rule of Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood.

Waving Egypt's red, white and black flags, crowds of protesters marched across Cairo to stream into the iconic central plaza, birthplace of the anti-Mubarak uprising. By the evening, it was thronging with a crowd that appeared to be more than 200,000. Clashes broke out in several cities as Morsi opponents tried to attack offices of the Brotherhood, setting fire to at least one.

Ringling out at Tahrir was the central chant of the Arab Spring revolts: "The

rescinding the declaration," he told The Associated Press. Morsi's edicts effectively neutralize the judiciary, which was the only branch of government in a position to balance Morsi, who holds not only executive but also legislative authority. The staunch stand taken by Morsi and his Brotherhood sets the stage for a drawn-out battle with the opposition that could paralyze the nation at a time when its economic woes are deepening, security continues to be tenuous and strikes by an entire spectrum of white and blue collar workers show no sign of abating. Protest organiz-

place at the site for several days, fueled by anger over police abuses, separately from the crisis over Morsi.

A photographer working for the AP, Ahmed Gomaa, was heavily beaten by police using sticks while covering the clashes Tuesday. Police took his equipment, and Gomaa was taken to hospital for treatment.

In the Nile Delta industrial city of Mahalla el-Kobra, workers and activists tried to storm the headquarters of the Brotherhood's political party, but were blocked by Brotherhood members who formed a human chain around the building. □

Palestinians predict historic UN vote on statehood

EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The Palestinians predicted a historic U.N. vote recognizing their statehood this week, praising important new support from France on Tuesday and likely backing from other European nations seen as critical to enhancing their international standing.

The United States and Israel strongly oppose the resolution, and there are fears it could torpedo Palestinian hopes of quickly resuming negotiations with Israel to end their decades-old conflict. Israeli officials have already said they will not return to negotiations after the vote and believe it instead undermines hopes for a peace deal.

The General Assembly vote to raise the Palestinians' status from a U.N. observer to a nonmember observer state is scheduled for Thursday — the "International

Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People" — just a week after a cease-fire ended eight days of punishing Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip and intense rocketing of the Jewish state by Gaza's Hamas rulers that reached Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

Unlike the Security Council, there are no vetoes in the General Assembly and the resolution is virtually certain of approval. The 193-member world body is dominated by countries sympathetic to the Palestinian cause and the resolution only requires a majority vote for approval.

The U.N. recognition of their statehood would elevate the Palestinians to the same status as the Vatican, another nonmember observer state. However, a country's vote to raise the Palestinian status at the U.N. does not imply its individual recognition of a Palestinian state, something that must be

done bilaterally. To date, 132 countries — over two-thirds of the U.N. member



French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius shakes hands with Malian Prime Minister Sheikh Modibo Diarra, unseen, in Paris, Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012. The French foreign minister says France plans to vote in favor of recognition of a Palestinian state at the U.N. General Assembly this week, the first major European country to come out in favor.

(AP Photo/Christophe Ena)

states — have recognized the state of Palestine.

The U.N. recognition, however, would add weight to Palestinian claims for a state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war. Israel pulled out of Gaza in 2005.

The vote is taking place while the Palestinians themselves remain bitterly divided: Hamas, which does not recognize Israel's right to exist, claimed victory in the recent conflict and raised its standing in the Arab world, while the rival Fatah movement of President Mahmoud Abbas, which controls the West Bank, remained sidelined.

Abbas needs a solid vote in the General Assembly to strengthen his domestic position and he is flying to New York to present the case for U.N. recognition of the state of Palestine.

Riyad Mansour, the Pales-

tinian U.N. observer, said the final draft resolution, which was only circulated to U.N. members late Monday, has close to 60 co-sponsors and he expects more by the time of the vote.

"I think that the great majority of nations will vote with us because there is a global consensus on the two-state solution" that envisions Palestine and Israel living side-by-side in peace, Mansour said at a news conference. "So we expect a large number of countries to vote in favor." The Palestinians have focused much attention on getting support from European nations because of the clout that their backing would give to Palestinian statehood dream, and France came through on Tuesday when Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius told Parliament in Paris that the country will vote "yes" on the resolution. □

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AMERICAN BRIEFS

Man sues Elmo puppeteer for abuse

NEW YORK (AP) — A man has sued the ex-Elmo puppeteer who resigned amid sex allegations, saying the voice actor met him in New York after trolling gay telephone chat lines seeking underage boys for sex.

The lawsuit seeking unspecified damages was filed in Manhattan federal court Tuesday by a Florida man who remains anonymous. The man says he met Kevin Clash on a chat line when he was 16 years old in 2000. The lawsuit says Clash had numerous Elmo dolls in his apartment when he met the teen for sex. The man, now 29, is the third to make claims against Clash, who resigned from "Sesame Street" last week after 28 years. A spokeswoman says Clash "believes this lawsuit has no merit." □

BP arraigned; not-guilty plea entered

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A lawyer for BP PLC entered a not-guilty plea for the company as it was arraigned on charges stemming from a deadly 2010 rig explosion and massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The plea Tuesday in federal court was a procedural move paving the way for a later guilty plea. It doesn't signal that BP is backing away from its plea agreement. BP announced earlier this month that it will plead guilty to manslaughter, obstruction of Congress and other charges and pay a record \$4.5 billion in penalties to resolve a federal probe of the Deepwater Horizon disaster. Attorneys for BP and the Justice Department are scheduled to meet Dec. 11 with a federal judge to discuss a date for pleading guilty. □

Judge: tobacco groups to say they lied

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge is ordering tobacco companies to publish corrective statements that say they lied about the dangers of smoking and to disclose smoking's health effects, including the death of 1,200 people a day. U.S. District Judge Kessler said she wanted the industry to pay for corrective statements in various types of advertisements. But Tuesday's ruling is the first time she's laid out what the statements will say. Each corrective ad is to be prefaced by a statement that the defendant tobacco companies "deliberately deceived the American public about the health effects of smoking." Among the required statements are that secondhand smoke kills more than 3,000 Americans a year. □

US passes on China 'manipulator' label

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration has declined to label China a currency manipulator, noting that it's let its currency rise nearly 10 percent in value against the dollar since June 2010. The administration says the Chinese yuan remains "significantly undervalued" and is urging China to make further progress. U.S. manufacturers contend that China is manipulating its currency to gain trade advantages. A weaker yuan makes Chinese goods cheaper for American consumers and U.S. goods more expensive in China. Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney had vowed during the campaign to brand China a currency manipulator if he won the White House. □

US judge: Return kids to deported dad

SPARTA, North Carolina (AP) — A North Carolina judge has restored custody of three U.S.-born children to their deported Mexican father. Social services officials had sought to terminate the parental rights of Felipe Montes, who crossed the border illegally in 2003 to work on Christmas tree farms. He later married a U.S. citizen and the couple had three sons. □

After Rice meeting, 3 Republicans say Benghazi concerns now worse



Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012, following a closed-door meeting with UN Ambassador Susan Rice who could find her name in contention as early as this week to succeed Hillary Rodham Clinton as secretary of state.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

JEREMY W. PETERS
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WASHINGTON — Susan E. Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, conceded Tuesday that she incorrectly described the attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya, in September as following a spontaneous protest, rather than being a terrorist attack. But she said she based her statement on the intelligence available at the time and did not intend to mislead the U.S. public. Rice's acknowledgment, in a meeting on Capitol Hill with three Republican senators who had criticized her earlier statements in a series of television interviews after the attack, seemed to do little to quell their anger. The senators emerged from the meeting voicing even deeper reservations about Rice's role in the messy aftermath of the Benghazi attack, which resulted in the deaths of four Americans.

"We are significantly troubled by many of the answers that we got, and some that we didn't get," Sen. John McCain of Arizona said to reporters. Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said, "Bottom line: I'm more concerned than I was before" — a sentiment echoed by Sen. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire. Their statements — coming after Rice's conciliatory remarks during a meeting designed to mend fences with her three critics and smooth the way for her nomination as secretary of state if President Barack Obama decides on her as the successor to Hillary Rodham Clinton — attested to the bitterness of the feud between the White House and Republicans over Benghazi. Republicans have seized on Rice's initial account as a politically motivated cover-up by the administration. The White House has

defended Rice by saying she was simply articulating talking points produced by intelligence agencies. Rice had asked for the meeting and was accompanied by the acting CIA director, Michael J. Morrell, amid signs that McCain and Graham were softening their opposition to her potential nomination. In a statement issued after the meeting, Rice said she and Morrell discussed the talking points that she used when she appeared on five Sunday morning talk shows Sept. 16, five days after the attack. Jay Carney, the White House press secretary, said after the meeting: "There are no unanswered questions about Ambassador Rice's appearance on Sunday shows and the talking points she used for those appearances that were provided by the intelligence community. Those questions have been answered." □

Man suing Facebook wants lawyer to stay

BUFFALO, New York (AP) — A lawyer who says he no longer wants to represent a New York man claiming part ownership of Facebook is still on the case for now after his client told a judge he doesn't want him to go. Paul Ceglia's opposition to Ohio attorney Dean Bo-

land's request to withdraw from Ceglia's civil lawsuit surprised Facebook attorneys, who'd been ready to go along with it during a court hearing conducted by phone Tuesday. It also surprised Magistrate Judge Leslie Foschio, who put the request on hold. Boland hasn't said publicly

why he wants off the case, outlining his reasons privately to the judge. Now Facebook wants the reasons disclosed. The judge gave Boland until Dec. 4 to respond to that request. Without giving details, Ceglia implied Boland has been receiving threats. □

Female military members sue to serve in combat

BY PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Four female service members filed a lawsuit Tuesday challenging the Pentagon's ban on women serving in combat, hoping the move will add pressure to drop the policy just as officials are gauging the effect that lifting the prohibition will have on morale.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in San Francisco, is the second one this year over the 1994 rule that bars women from being assigned to ground combat units, which are smaller and considered more dangerous since they are often in battle for longer periods. The legal effort comes less than a year after the ban on gays serving openly was lifted and as officials are surveying Marines about whether women would be a distraction in ground combat units.



Plaintiff Colleen Farrell, a U.S. Marine Corps First Lieutenant, speaks during a media conference Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012, in San Francisco. Several active women military personnel have filed a federal lawsuit to demand combat action. (AP Photo/Ben Margot)

"I'm trying to get rid of the ban with a sharp poke," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jennifer Hunt, who was among the plaintiffs in the latest lawsuit and was injured in

2007 when her Humvee ran over an improvised explosive device in Iraq.

Hunt and the other three women said the policy unfairly blocks them from promotions and other advancements open to men in combat. Three of the women are in the reserves. A fourth, Marine Corp Lt. Colleen Farrell, leaves active duty this week.

Women comprise 14 percent of the 1.4 million active military personnel. The lawsuit alleges that women are barred from 238,000 positions across the Armed Forces.

At a Washington, D.C., news conference, Pentagon press secretary George Little said the Defense Department was making

strides in allowing more women to experience combat. He said Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has opened about 14,500 combat positions to women.

"And he has directed the services to explore the possibility of opening additional roles for women in the military," Little said. "His record is very strong on this issue."

American Civil Liberties Union Ariela Migdal, who represents the four women, said Panetta's actions weren't enough. She called for an end to the combat ban. "These tweaks and minor changes on the margins do a disservice to all the women who serve," she said.

"It falls short," she said. □

Senators ask Obama to protect the Mississippi

JIM SALTER

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A group of U.S. senators will ask President Barack Obama for an emergency declaration in an effort to keep barges moving on the drought-riddled Mississippi River, a spokesman for Sen. Claire McCaskill told The Associated Press Tuesday.

Senators from Mississippi River states are seeking an emergency directive that would increase the flow of water from an upper Missouri River dam and expedite removal of rock formations in the middle Mississippi River that impede barge traffic during periods of low water. McCaskill spokesman Drew Pusateri did not yet have a complete list of senators involved in the request.

Goods such as grain, corn, coal, petroleum and chemicals are typically shipped along the Mississippi River, in part because the volume is so high that using trucks or trains would be far more costly. Waterway trade groups say that if the river was shut down starting next month and through January, the impact would reach into the billions of dollars.

Pusateri said McCaskill also will write to Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon asking him to formally request a disaster designation. □

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Soldier in WikiLeaks case claims wrongly punished

DAVID DISHNEAU

Associated Press

FORT MEADE, Maryland

(AP) — The U.S. Army private charged in the biggest security breach in U.S. history and accused of sending documents to the secret-spilling website

Manning may not be called to testify until later this week.

His lawyers contend Manning was illegally punished by being locked up alone in a small cell for nearly nine months at the Marine Corps brig in Quantico, Vir-

ginia, and having to sleep naked for several nights. Military judges can dismiss all charges if pretrial punishment is particularly egregious, but that rarely happens. The usual remedy is credit at sentencing for time served, said Lisa M. Windsor, a retired Army colonel and former Army judge advocate. Manning is accused of



Demonstrator Richard Ochs wears a button in support of Army Pfc. Bradley Manning as he stands outside of Fort Meade, Md., Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012, where Manning is scheduled to appear for a pretrial hearing.

WikiLeaks is expected to testify that he's been punished enough after being locked up alone in a small cell for months and forced to sleep naked for several nights. Pfc. Bradley Manning's pretrial hearing was set to run Tuesday through Sunday in a military court. Military officers were expected to testify first, so

ginia, and having to sleep naked for several nights. Military judges can dismiss all charges if pretrial punishment is particularly egregious, but that rarely happens. The usual remedy is credit at sentencing for time served, said Lisa M. Windsor, a retired Army colonel and former Army judge advocate. Manning is accused of

sible life imprisonment if convicted of aiding the enemy, the most serious of the 22 charges. Manning has offered to take responsibility for the leak by pleading guilty to reduced charges. The military judge hasn't ruled on the offer, and prosecutors have not said whether they would still pursue the charges against him. □

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)



Naked AIDS activists, with painted slogans on their bodies, protest inside the lobby of the Capitol Hill office of House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012, prior to World AIDS Day, Dec. 1. Three women AIDS activists saying they wanted to highlight the "naked truth" about potential spending cuts in HIV programs were arrested after taking their clothes off in the lobby of Boehner's office.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

Naked AIDS activists arrested in House Speaker Boehner's office

ANDREW MIGA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three women AIDS activists saying they wanted to highlight the "naked truth" about potential spending cuts in HIV programs were arrested Tuesday after taking their clothes off in the lobby of House Speaker John Boehner's office. The trio had the words "AIDS cuts kill" painted on their bodies and had linked arms with four men who also disrobed as part of the protest. The nude protesters, along with dozens of other clothed demonstrators chanted slogans, including: "People with AIDS are under attack. What do we do? Fight back." The three women were arrested by Capitol Police as they mingled with other protesters in the hall outside Boehner's district office

after putting their clothes back on. The naked male protesters appeared to have left. "People with AIDS are sick and tired of being pushed over the cliff," said Jennifer Flynn, 40, of New York City, who was among those arrested. "We need to make sure they stop going after people with AIDS." Michael Tikili, 26, of New York City, said he is HIV-positive and depends on Medicaid for treatment. "Just the idea of these programs being cut is horrible," Tikili said. The protest occurred as congressional leaders and President Barack Obama seek a deal to avert automatic spending cuts and tax increases in January. A coalition of AIDS activist groups gathering in Washington for Saturday's World AIDS Day organized the protest. □

Obama takes 'fiscal cliff' message on the road



President Barack Obama departs after visiting a small bookstore and shaking hands with shoppers in Arlington, Va.

KEN THOMAS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. President Barack Obama is taking his case on the looming austerity crisis known as the "fiscal cliff" to the public this week as he pressures Republicans to allow tax increases on the wealthy while extending tax cuts for

families earning \$250,000 or less.

The White House said Tuesday that the president wants to build support for his approach to avoid the across-the-board tax increases and steep spending cuts in defense and domestic programs that will take effect Jan. 1 if Obama

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

and a divided Congress can't reach a deal to avoid it.

They have five weeks to do it.

Obama will meet with small business owners at the White House on Tuesday and with middle-class families on Wednesday. The president's visit to a small

business in Pennsylvania on Friday will cap a week of public outreach and mark Obama's first public event outside the nation's capital since winning re-election. Experts warn the "fiscal cliff" could send the country into another recession, and both Obama and Congress agree that it could harm the country's economic recovery, but an agreement still appears far from assured.

Obama's approach this week was quickly criticized by Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell,

who said that "rather than sitting down with lawmakers of both parties and working out an agreement, he's back out on the campaign trail, presumably with the same old talking points we're all familiar with."

House Speaker John Boehner, a Republican, has pushed for raising additional revenue through reducing tax loopholes instead of raising tax rates on wealthy Americans. He and other Republicans argue that the higher rates would also hurt some small businesses and hinder economic growth. □

Hoboken station 'weeks' from reopening

DAVID PORTER
Associated Press

HOBOKEN, N.J. (AP) — The rail terminal here is a relic from a different era, old enough to have seen the Jazz Age and the Great Depression, survive two World Wars and withstand the encroachment of the automobile. It almost met its match in Hurricane Sandy. More than a month after the superstorm forced the Hudson River over its banks and cascading onto underground platforms and tracks, service on the Port Authority Trans-Hudson line out of Hoboken remains suspended, even as other portions of the system have been restored.

It will be weeks before trains run again, PATH's acting director said Tuesday.

Age and geography combine to make this one of the New York area's more vulnerable pieces of infrastructure, as the hulking building squats mere yards from the river at the bottom

of a gentle downslope.

In the wake of Sandy, officials from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said all existing infrastructure is being reviewed for possible flood mitigation. But there was the sense that even greater protective measures might not have been enough here.

"This was something that was larger than anybody ever expected," PATH acting director Stephen Kingsberry said Tuesday. "We're in Hoboken, where a lot of the above-ground parts were flooded. This station is underground. That's the problem of the day. I don't think any of the areas of Hoboken were able to escape this amount of water." Surveillance videos released recently by the Port Authority show water gushing down stairways and onto platforms, submerging turnstiles and ticket machines.

Some tracks took on eight feet of water. Overall, the

PATH system that serves Newark, Jersey City, Hoboken and lower Manhattan suffered \$300 million in damage, Kingsberry said.

During a tour of the station and tracks on Tuesday, two workers were cleaning off a circuit box that is used to de-energize the third rail in one of the tunnels; farther down the tunnel another crew was working on two 12,000-pound pumps and other workers were busy reconnecting circuits in a nerve center that controls track switches. The nerve center filled with more than five feet of water, complete with floating rats, employees said.

The pumps interspersed along the tracks can pump out water at 700 gallons per minute, according to John Burkhard, an assistant superintendent in the way and structures division. Additional measures were taken as well, he said, but they were no match for the huge volume of water. □



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Economic organization warns of global recession

STEPHEN CASTLE

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LONDON – The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development sharply cut its forecast for the world economy Tuesday, warning that failure to resolve the euro crisis and to avert a fiscal impasse in the United States could trigger a global recession. The Paris-based OECD predicted that gross domestic product in its 34 member nations, all developed economies, would expand by 1.4 percent in 2013, a significant downward revision from its forecast of 2.2 percent made just six months ago. That assumes that the U.S. agrees on a budget deal before January, averting billions of dollars in tax increases and automatic spending cuts. If that so-called fiscal

cliff is not avoided, "a large negative shock could bring the U.S. and the global economy into recession," according to the forecast, written by Pier Carlo Padoan, the organization's deputy secretary-general and chief economist. Even leaving that possibility aside, the OECD report makes grim reading, particularly with regard to the 17-nation euro area – which, still mired in recession, is where the "greatest threats to the world economy remain." "Challenging fiscal sustainability conditions in some countries risk sparking a chain of events that could considerably harm activity in the monetary union and push the global

economy into recession," the report said. Highlighting the continuing lack of economic confidence, the report urged European policymakers to accelerate efforts to bolster their single currency through the creation of a banking union. "Temporary fiscal stimulus should be provided by

countries with robust fiscal positions (including Germany and China)," it added. "Over the recent past, signs of emergence from the crisis have more than once given way to a renewed slowdown or even a double-dip recession in some countries," the document said, add-

ing that "the risk of a new major contraction cannot be ruled out." According to the OECD, provided a budget deal is reached, the U.S. economy should grow by 2 percent in 2013 and 2.8 percent in 2014. In Japan, GDP is expected to expand by 0.7 percent in 2013 and 0.8 percent in 2014. □

Greek bankruptcy temporarily averted

NICHOLAS PAPHITIS
PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — European and global financial leaders have agreed to release €44 billion (\$57 billion) in critical loans to Greece and provide billions

Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras hailed the agreement in Brussels as a victory. "Yesterday, a very grey, a very dark time for Greece ended definitively," he said in a televised address to the nation, adding that the

rate charged on Greece's benchmark 10-year bonds, an indicator of investor confidence in a country's finances, fell 0.2 percentage points to 14.47 percent on the news of the debt deal. "There remains the potential for this deal to fall apart in the medium term as there are a lot of moving parts and it is a long way away from the permanent fix that the IMF had been insisting upon," said Gary Jenkins, managing director of Swordfish Research. "It is just one more big kick of the can down the road."

For three years, Greece has been struggling to convince markets as well as its creditors that it can get a grip on its public finances, which had spiraled out of control. The country is predicted to enter its sixth year of recession and is weighed down by an unemployment rate of 25 percent. The so-called troika of the European Central Bank, IMF and the European Commission has twice agreed to bail out Greece, pledging a total of €240 billion in rescue loans — of which the country has received about €150 billion so far. In return for its bailout loans, Greece has had to impose several rounds of austerity measures and submit its economy to scrutiny. Without the bailout money, the country would be facing bankruptcy and a possible forced exit from the 17-country eurozone. □



International Monetary Fund's Christine Lagarde speaks in a media conference after a meeting of eurogroup finance ministers in Brussels, Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012. The 17 European Union nations that use the euro have struck an agreement with the International Monetary Fund on a program to reduce Greek debt and put Athens on the way to get the next installment of its much-needed bailout loans.

(AP Photo/Jock Fistick, Pool)

in additional debt relief in order to help the country stabilize its ailing economy. After three weeks of negotiations, Greece's euro partners and the International Monetary Fund agreed early Tuesday morning to release the loans in four installments beginning next month. The leaders also settled on a raft of measures — including a debt buyback program and an interest rate cut on loans — that will reduce the country's debts by about €40 billion.

agreement "managed to ensure us remaining in the euro." But the country will still face years of economic pain as austerity measures agreed to as part of the bailout package are implemented. Most stock markets in Europe were modestly higher on the news out of Brussels with the Stoxx 50 index of leading European shares closing up 0.2 percent. Meanwhile the euro gave up earlier gains to trade 0.4 percent lower at \$1.2941. The interest

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Livni's return to politics leaves Netanyahu vulnerable

JOSEF FEDERMAN

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who appeared to be cruising to re-election a few weeks ago, suddenly appears vulnerable as the country prepares to go to the polls in January.

The political comeback of a popular former foreign minister on Tuesday, coupled with the ruling Likud Party's selection of an especially hard-line slate of candidates, has suddenly raised questions about Netanyahu's prospects. Eager to portray Netanyahu as an extremist, opposition parties see an opportunity to mount a formidable challenge to the Israeli leader.

Ousting Netanyahu remains a formidable task, but the return of Tzipi Livni, who served as Israel's foreign minister and chief peace negotiator from 2006 to 2009, injected a high-profile name into what had been a lackluster race. Well respected internationally, Livni immediately took

aim at what she called a "leadership vacuum" and promised an aggressive

"And I won't allow anyone to turn peace into a bad word."



Former Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni is seen during a visit to the Chancellery in Berlin. Livni announced her return to Israeli politics on Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012.

(AP Photo/Franka Bruns)

push for peace with the Palestinians.

"I came to fight for peace," she said.

During Netanyahu's nearly four years in office, peace efforts with the Palestinians have remained frozen.

The Palestinians refuse to resume talks unless Israel stops building settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, occupied areas that the Palestinians claim for an independent state. Netanyahu blames the Palestinians for the deadlock. The prime minister imposed a partial freeze on settlement construction early in his term, leading to a brief attempt to resume negotiations.

But Netanyahu refused to extend the construction slowdown, and the talks quickly collapsed. He says talks should resume without any preconditions.

The deadlock has pushed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to head to the United Nations this week to upgrade the Palestinian observer mission to "nonmember state" status. The General Assembly is expected to pass the request. The Palestinians believe the international endorsement, while largely symbolic, will bolster their position if negotiations resume. Israel, backed by the United States, opposes the bid

and has been furiously lobbying allies to oppose it, saying all differences must be resolved through negotiations.

In a setback for Netanyahu, France announced Tuesday that it would vote in favor of the Palestinians. At a time when there are no talks with the Western-backed government of Abbas, Israel this week opened an indirect dialogue with Abbas' rival, the Islamic militant Hamas movement, as part of a cease-fire that ended an Israeli military offensive in the Gaza Strip last week.

Israel considers Hamas, which seized control of Gaza five years ago, a terrorist group.

"Everything is upside down: a government that negotiates with terrorists and freezes all dialogue with those who work to prevent attacks," Livni said.

Livni told the audience that the fighting in Gaza, in which her youngest son was mobilized to Israel's southern front, had factored into her decision to return to politics. □

Arafat grave dug up for probe

KARIN LAUB

M. DARAGHMEH

Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)

— Eight years after Yasser Arafat's mysterious death, his political heirs opened his grave Tuesday and let forensics experts take samples from his remains, defying strong cultural taboos in search of evidence that the icon of Palestinian nationalism was poisoned.

Palestinians have claimed for years that Israel poisoned Arafat, who died in a French hospital. Israel has denied the charges.

The exhumation marked the end of months of procedural wrangling but only the beginning of the testing.

Palestinian officials said it would take at least three months to get results, and even then, they might not be conclusive.

Workers opened Arafat's tomb before daybreak Tuesday, laying bare the remains some four meters (13 feet) below ground level, the Palestinian health minister said. A Palestinian forensics examiner took some 20 samples and handed them to Swiss, French and Russian experts, officials said.

Huge sheets of blue tarpaulin draped over Arafat's mausoleum hid the scene from view, part of an attempt by Palestinian officials to minimize any

potential backlash against digging up the grave of Arafat, still widely revered in the Palestinian territories. By midmorning, the grave was resealed, and Palestinian officials laid wreaths of flowers to signal Arafat's reburial.

The three teams will separately analyze the samples for possible poison, including polonium-210, a lethal radioactive substance first detected in elevated amounts on some of Arafat's clothing this summer. Polonium disintegrates rapidly, and experts have cautioned that too much time may have passed since Arafat's death to reach a conclusive result. □

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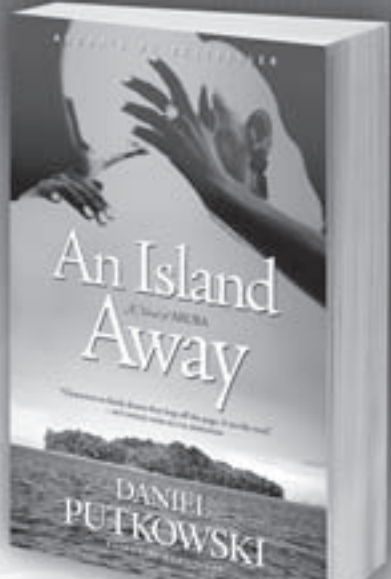
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Congo rebels present demands for leaving Goma

JEFFREY GETTLEMAN

© 2012 New York Times

NAIROBI, Kenya

Rebel leaders in the Democratic Republic of Congo said Tuesday that they had "no problem" withdrawing from the strategic eastern city of Goma, which they captured last week, but they then went on to present such a long and unrealistic set of demands that an immediate pullout seemed unlikely. The rebels said they would leave Goma only if the Congolese government released political prisoners, investigated the murder of opposition supporters, dissolved the national election commission and convened a conference of opposition leaders and members of the Congolese diaspora. "We are ready to defend ourselves if the Congolese army attacks Goma because we are not leaving unless there are talks with the presi-



Government soldiers in Minova, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nov. 26, 2012. In the past week, rebels in Congo have been unstoppable, steamrolling through one town after another and eviscerating a dysfunctional Congolese Army. (Jehad Nga/The New York Times)

dent," said Jean-Marie Runiga, head of the rebels' political wing. A Congolese government spokesman, Lambert Mende, called the

rebel demands a "farce." "If each day they're going to come back with new demands, it becomes ridiculous," he told the Re-

uters news agency. Regional leaders, especially President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, are putting enormous pressure on both

sides to break the impasse, which many analysts fear could drag Congo, a vast nation in Africa's strategic center, back into chaos. Goma is one of the biggest and most commercially vital cities in Congo, and its fall into rebel hands set off protests across the country, some of them quite destructive and violent. And the rebels have said their capture of Goma is just the beginning and that they plan to "liberate" the entire country. On Tuesday morning, the Ugandan government triumphantly declared that the rebels had agreed to leave Goma. That announcement was then essentially canceled out by a rebel news conference a few hours later. The rebels, who call themselves the M23, continued to clash with government-allied militias around Goma on Tuesday, witnesses said. □

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30 killed, dozens hurt in Iraq insurgent attack

SAMEER N. YACOB

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Insurgents launched attacks against security forces and civilians in central and northern Iraq on Tuesday, killing at least 30 people and wounding dozens, officials said.

Shiite mosques in Baghdad were main targets, along with a city claimed by squabbling ethnic groups in a disputed northern region. The conflicts threaten the stability of Iraq following the final pullout of U.S. military forces nearly a year ago. Car bombs exploded near three mosques shortly after nightfall in the capital, killing 21. Police and hospital officials said the first exploded near a Shiite mosque following eve-

ning prayers in the Hurriyah neighborhood, killing nine worshippers and wounding 20 others. Minutes later, another car bomb went off near Gaereat mosque, killing five people.

Later, police said a third car bomb exploded, killing seven Shiite worshippers and wounding 21 others in Shula neighborhood in northern Baghdad.

Ali Habib, a taxi driver, said he was driving near the Shiite mosque in Hurriyah when he heard a loud explosion. He rushed to the blast site and helped take wounded to the hospital.

"The scene was horrific, with people screaming for help," he said. "Such attacks bring back memories of the darkest days of sectarian strife that took place

several years ago in Iraq." In the north, a police officer said three bombs in parked cars exploded simultaneously in the oil-rich city of



People evacuate a victim at the scene of a bomb attack in Kirkuk, 180 miles (290 kilometers) north of Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012. Three parked car bombs exploded Tuesday morning simultaneously in the city of Kirkuk, home to a combustible mix of Kurds, Sunni Arabs and Turkomen who all claim rights to the city, killing and wounding scores of people, police said.

(AP Photo/Emad Matti)

Kirkuk, the largest city in the area claimed by several ethnic groups in a dispute with the central government in Baghdad.

The bombs hit two Kurdish residential areas in the center of the city. One went off near a main Kurdish party headquarters. Five people, including a Kurdish security guard, were killed and 58 others wounded, he said.

A few minutes later, two bombs exploded in a market in the Sunni-dominated town of Hawija west of Kirkuk, killing two civilians and wounding five others, he said. Also, five Iraqi army soldiers were wounded when militants detonated bombs near their houses in the nearby town of Tuz Khortmato. Kirkuk, 290 kilometers (180 miles) north of Baghdad, is home to a mix of Arabs, Kurds and Turkomen, who all have competing claims to the oil-rich area. □

US Navy secretary, Chinese minister discuss relationship

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China's defense minister and the U.S. Navy secretary on Tuesday discussed security at sea and plans to bolster the U.S. military presence in the Asia-Pacific region that have been sharply criticized by Beijing.

China hopes the sides would further cooperation in areas of mutual interest and "manage disparities when conflicts appear," Gen. Liang Guanglie told Ray Mabus according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

Liang called for "equality, mutual benefit and practical collaboration while developing a new type of relationship between the two militaries," Xinhua said.

The meeting at the Ministry of National Defense in central Beijing comes just days after China began landing planes on its newly com-

missioned aircraft carrier, displaying rapid progress toward deploying the ultimate symbol of naval power and force projection.

Mabus also met Tuesday with the commander of the Chinese navy, Adm. Wu Shengli, and plans to tour two ships and a submarine in the eastern port of Ningbo as part of his four-day visit, the U.S. Embassy said. Beijing has criticized the U.S.'s moves in the Pacific as part of a campaign to encircle and contain China, despite Washington's claims that it is merely shifting its focus back to the region after winding-down the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Those steps include dispatching up to 2,500 U.S. Marines to rotate through a joint military training hub in the northern Australia city of Darwin and the deployment of a littoral combat ship — a new type of vessel

that can operate closer to shore than other ships — to Singapore as part of a reassignment of naval assets to Asia.

China, for its part, has unnerved its neighbors with its moves to assert its claims in the South China Sea and off its east coast.

Recent months have seen a standoff with the Philippines over a disputed shoal and frequent confrontations with the Japanese Coast Guard around East China Sea islands claimed by both sides.

Along with acquiring an aircraft carrier, sophisticated fighter jets, and other modern hardware, China has stepped-up training among the 2.3-million-member People's Liberation Army. State media on Tuesday repeatedly showed footage of ground exercises in the Nanjing Military District that faces Taiwan, the U.S.-allied island

democracy that China threatens to bring under its control by force if it has to. However, despite sometimes bellicose attitudes

on both sides, there is also a growing push for greater contact and communication to avoid misunderstandings and build trust. □

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Colombian rebels: peace talks going well

PAUL HAVEN
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — A senior commander of Colombia's main rebel group said Tuesday that days of intensive peace talks with the government are going well, the clearest signal yet that the half-century-long conflict may eventually be resolved.

Jesus Santrich noted that negotiators from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the government, meeting in Havana, have already agreed to support a broad forum in Bogota in December to discuss agrarian development, which has been an issue in the class-based conflict.

"Up until now we have had good results," Santrich said upon entering the seventh day of talks at a convention center in the Cuban capital. "There has been agreement. We are on the same wavelength."

Participants say the forum

agreement is significant because it means both sides have accepted a basic framework for the negotiations centered

rum — which is being organized by the United Nations and the National University of Colombia — will give Colombian society a greater

and restart talks in January armed with a report on the forum's findings.

Santrich — the nom de guerre used by Seuxis Pautias Hernandez — also called on the governments of Ecuador and Colombia to work with the Red Cross to repatriate the remains of rebels killed in a cross-border raid in 2008, including Raul Reyes, a top rebel leader. Santrich also dismissed a senior American official's comment that the United States is unlikely to ever release a guerrilla leader serving a long jail sentence there.

On Tuesday, Santrich wore dark glasses and a black baseball cap inscribed with the words "Simon Trinidad is here" in Spanish across the front. While the rebels have spoken to the press nearly every morning, Colombian government negotiators have not said anything. That has not stopped both sides from publicly sniping in the media. □



Ivan Marquez, left, chief negotiator for Colombia's Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, and Dutch rebel Tanja Nijmeijer, center, arrive for the seventh day of peace talks between the FARC and Colombia's government in Havana, Cuba, Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012.

(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

upon six themes including land reform, victim compensation, drug trafficking and reinsertion of the rebels into society.

It is also hoped that the fo-

stake in the success of the negotiations, making an eventual agreement more likely.

The two sides are expected to break for Christmas,

Latin American poverty lowest in 3 decades: UN

LUIS ANDRES HENAO
Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — The number of people living in poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean has dropped to its lowest level in three decades, the UN's regional economic body said on Tuesday.

Despite lower poverty levels overall, 167 million people in the region are still considered poor. That's one million fewer than in 2011, and it represents 29 percent of the region's population. Of those, 66 million people re-



A family outside a home in the Apure state of Venezuela. The number of people living in poverty in Latin America has dropped to its lowest level in three decades, the UN said on Tuesday. (Meridith Kohut/The New York Times)

main stuck in extreme poverty, the same as last year. "Current poverty and indigence rates are the lowest for three decades, and this is good news, but we are still facing unacceptable levels in many countries," Alicia Barcena, head of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), told reporters in Santiago.

"The challenge is to generate quality jobs as part of a development model based on equality and environmental sustainability," she said.

Higher wages and increased state social spending were the main reasons for the drop in the poverty rate, according to the Social Panorama of Latin America 2012 report.

It found that the last decade has seen reduced inequality in income distribution, although the issue remains one of the region's main challenges. □

China's party paper falls for Onion's Kim joke

BEIJING (AP) — The online version of China's Communist Party newspaper has hailed a report by The Onion naming North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un as the "Sexiest Man Alive" — not realizing it is satire.

The People's Daily on Tuesday ran a 55-page photo spread on its website in a tribute to the round-faced leader, under the headline "North Korea's top leader named The Onion's Sexiest Man Alive for 2012."

Quoting The Onion's spoof report, the Chinese newspaper wrote, "With his devastatingly handsome, round face, his boyish charm, and his strong, sturdy frame, this Pyongyang-bred heartthrob is every woman's dream come true."

"Blessed with an air of power that masks an unmistakable cute, cuddly side, Kim made this newspaper's editorial board swoon with his impeccable fashion sense, chic short hairstyle, and, of course, that famous smile," the People's Daily cited

The Onion as saying. The photos the People's Daily selected include Kim on horseback squinting into the light and Kim wav-

People's Daily could not immediately be reached for comment. A man who answered the phone at the newspaper's duty of-



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, accompanied by his wife Ri Sol Ju, waves to the crowd as they inspect the Rungna People's Pleasure Ground in Pyongyang, North Korea. The online version of China's Communist Party newspaper has hailed a report by The Onion naming Kim as the "Sexiest Man Alive" - not realizing it is satire. (AP Photo)

ing toward a military parade. In other photos, he is wearing sunglasses and smiling, or touring a facility with his wife.

fice said he did not know anything about the report and requested queries be directed to their newsroom on Wednesday morning.

It is not the first time a state-run Chinese newspaper has fallen for a fictional report by the just-for-laughs The Onion.

In 2002, the Beijing Evening News, one of the capital city's biggest tabloids at the time, published as news the fictional account that the U.S. Congress wanted a new building and that it might leave Washington. The Onion article was a spoof of the way sports teams threaten to leave cities in order to get new stadiums.

Two months ago, Iran's semiofficial Fars news agency reprinted a story from The Onion about a supposed survey showing that most rural white Americans would rather vote for Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad than President Barack Obama. It included a quote from a fictional West Virginia resident saying he'd rather go to a baseball game with Ahmadinejad because "he takes national defense seriously." □



Belgian Travel Agents enjoy Aruba's pleasures!

Recently Aruba received a visit from a lovely group of travel agents from Belgium. The group consisted of 10 travel agents, representing Mareours, Coach partners, Selectair Reizen van Renterghem, TCTS Cindy Travel, Avitour M travel, Heide Travel, Spillemaeckers Delta Reizen, a representative from KLM, Mrs. Karine Ostlender, and the group leader and co-owner of Travel World Belgium, Mr. Lieven Bossaert. The group did site inspections at several of our luxurious Resorts and restaurants, and also had an island tour courtesy of the Travel World ground handlers in Aruba EL Tours. One of the highlights of this Fam Trip was the sailing and snorkeling trip on board of the Dolphin Catamaran, mooring up at our beautiful Malmok area, the Antilla wreck and Boca Catalina bay, courtesy of the Delphi water sports. The group of travel agents were very much satisfied

with Aruba, and now have a much better view of everything Aruba has to offer to its visitors, after having the Aruba experience for themselves.

Mr. Ernest Giel from the Aruba Tourism Authority coordinated a very nice program for the group, and has received very positive feedback from the travel agents about Aruba. The Aruba Tourism Authority would like to thank everyone involved with this successful Fam Trip! □



Benefitting Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad:

Marriott Aruba donates Fun Walk funds

PALM BEACH, ARUBA (NOVEMBER 2012) – Recently the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino celebrated Global Customer Appreciation Week (GCAW), a Marriott International initiative to thank clients for their continued partnership. A part of the GCAW focuses on Marriott's Spirit to Serve Our Communities, giving back to the local community.

To support the local food bank, Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad (FPNC), the resort organized a 5 km fun walk from the resort to Arashi and back to the resort. Over 150 participants signed up for the fun walk,



including locals, Marriott associates and guests of the resort. The contribution

included a T-shirt, refreshments and an eco-friendly sports bottle. After a zumba

warm-up provided by Denise Krosendijk-Pechacek, participants headed to-

wards Arashi Beach. After the event, door prizes were handed out including dinners at the various restaurants of the Marriott and a weekend stay at Marriott Aruba. Marriott's sales and events team donated the funds afterwards to the Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad. With the donation, FPNC is able to donate food baskets to the less fortunate families in Aruba, especially during the holiday season. The Aruba Marriott would like to thank all participants, IBISA and Denise Krosendijk-Pechacek for their participation and looks forward to organize this again next year. □

Waka Waka hosts Imelda Hof family for Thanksgiving

Last week, Waka Waka Adventure Café & Cantina held a very special Thanksgiving Dinner, hosting the children of Stichting Imelda Hof and their peers at their brand new restaurant. For Waka Waka this was a very special and important occasion, offering an opportunity to give a hand to one of the island's most special foundations, and to generally give something special back to the community!

The goal of the occasion was for the children and the staff of Stichting Imelda Hof to enjoy a pleasant dinner and evening immersed in a warm atmosphere. Waka Waka picked up all 48 of their special guests in style with ABC Tours' Monster Truck Jeep and tour buses, which added to the fun of the evening!

The whole family at Waka Waka was very happy and content to organize this beautiful event, at which all who attended had a great time and a great dinner! ☐



Beauty on the Beach

Maria Isabel

She is from Bogota, Colombia, her first time in Aruba, she is staying at Occidental Grand and what she loves the most of Aruba are the Beaches.

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A woman is sitting on a beach chair, smiling at the camera. She is wearing a colorful, patterned dress and sunglasses. The background shows a sandy beach with other people and lounge chairs.

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At the Casino at the Radisson: Slots and Tables showering players with hot jackpots!

PALM BEACH - Jorge Aparicio, staying at The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa won a \$5,516 jackpot on the casino's Quick Hit machine, his companion was so busy counting the cash bonanza, she hardly had time to smile for the camera! Caribbean Stud Poker player Barbara Johannges, from Shirley, New York, won \$6,685 when she was dealt a Straight Flush, of 6-7-8-9-10 of Clubs, playing her favorite game. It was

the second hand dealt to her since she sat down to play, she explained, she has been playing at the Casino at the Radisson on and off for 5 weeks, during her winter stay on Aruba, winning modest amounts, and then the wished-for BIG one took her by surprise. Besides offering great cash rewards to slot and table players the Casino at the Radisson also award Mystery Jackpots at random,

to slot players, even without hitting any winning combinations. The program aptly titled Mystery Jackpots, awards \$250, and Lourdes Jacopucci was elated to collect, when Slot Technician Nelson Maduro, and Security Officer Thomas Paesch joined her for a souvenir photo, says Chantal Cha Young, Casino Sales & Marketing Coordinator. □



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The Carubbian Festival invites you to a taste of Aruba, San Nicolas Style! Every week on Thursday evenings the Carubbian Festival offers its guests hours of Carnival-Style entertainment featuring lively performances with hot Caribbean flavor!

Performing Thursday night this week on the Main Stage is "2 SWEET", Dance Groups "THE SUPER DANCERS" and "MASIDURI" will get your body moving – as will "MIQUEL PHILLIPS" when he performs the Limbo; Gaita group "LAS UNICAS" will perform traditional Caribbean holiday music and dance on the CMB Plaza, as will Gaita group "GOSA GAITA" on the Main Street, followed by the "TBS BRASS-BAND"! Don't miss this truly tropical experience at the Carubbian Festival: Thursday Night! ☐



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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a

perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort



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This April 3, 1972 file photo shows Marvin Miller, executive director of the Major League Baseball Players Association, talking to reporters in New York.

Associated Press

Former baseball union head Miller dead at 95

RONALD BLUM

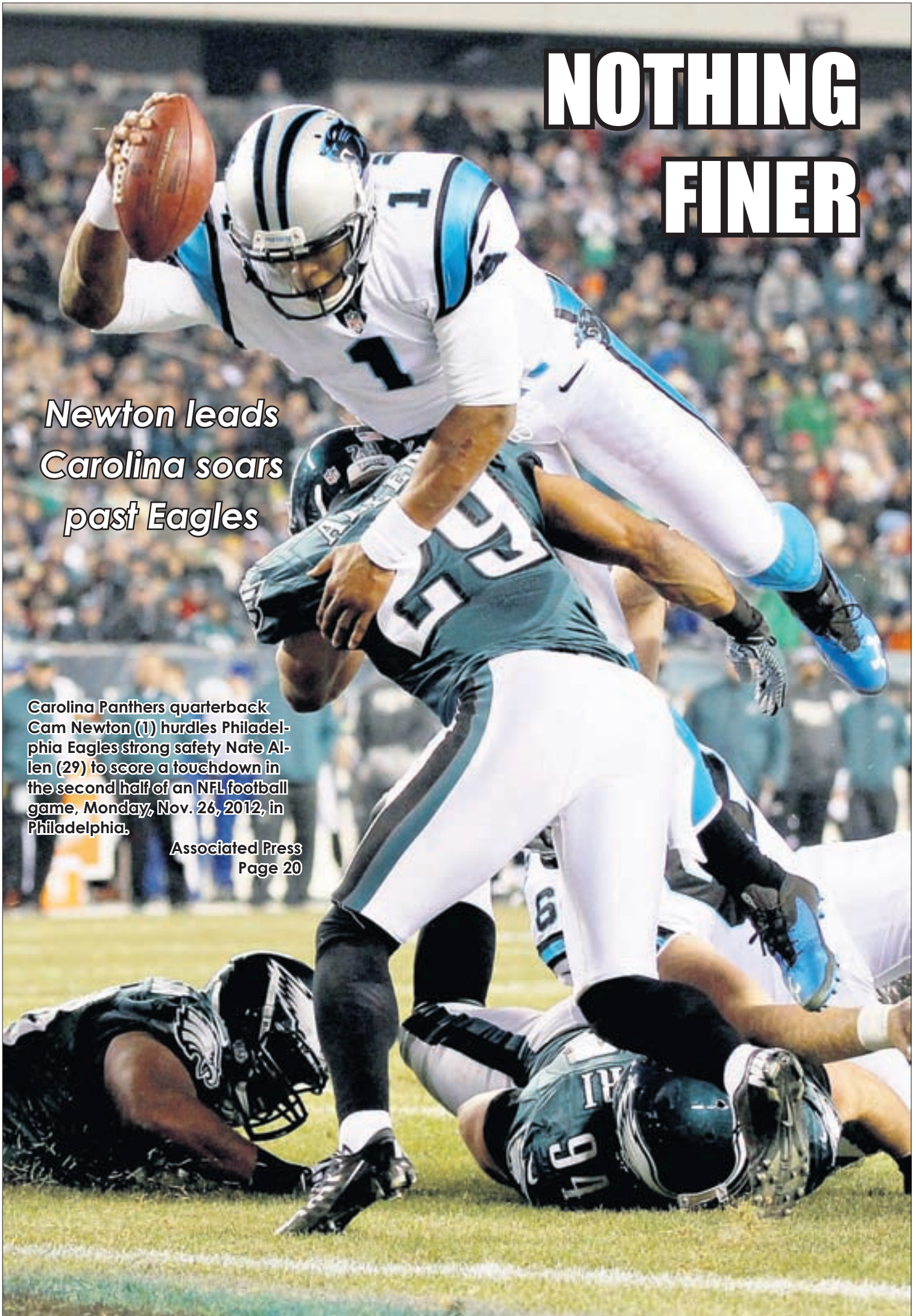
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Marvin Miller, the soft-spoken union head who led baseball players in a series of strikes and legal battles that won free agency, revolutionized sports and made athletes multimillionaires, died Tuesday. He was 95.

Miller died at his home in Manhattan at 5:30 a.m. local time, said his daughter Susan Miller. He had been diagnosed with liver cancer in August.

"All players — past, present and future — owe a debt of gratitude to Marvin, and his influence transcends baseball," current union head Michael Weiner said. "Marvin, without question, is largely responsible for ushering in the modern era of sports, which has resulted in tremendous benefits to players, owners and fans of all sports."

Continued on Page 18



NOTHING FINER

Newton leads Carolina soars past Eagles

Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton (1) hurdles Philadelphia Eagles strong safety Nate Allen (29) to score a touchdown in the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Nov. 26, 2012, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press
Page 20



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This Oct. 29, 2012 file photo shows Tiger Woods, right, and Rory McIlroy walking together during their 18-hole medal-match at the Lake Jinsha Golf Club in Zhengzhou, in central China's Henan province.

Associated Press

Woods not interested in European membership

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

THOUSAND OAKS, California (AP) —

Tiger Woods says he won't be joining the European Tour.

Woods had floated the possibility while in Turkey last month, especially now that the tour would count the Ryder Cup toward the minimum requirement of 13 events for membership. When asked about it Tuesday, Woods said, "I'm not going to play the European Tour next year."

Woods is starting next season at the Abu Dhabi Golf Championship. Throw in the four majors and four World Golf Championships, and he would need only three more events to become a European Tour member.

"It's a bit much for me still," Woods said, adding that

his focus is squarely on the record 18 majors won by Nicklaus. Rory McIlroy and Luke Donald have won the money titles on the European Tour and PGA Tour in the past two years.

Woods could have done that at least four times in the past decade if he had been a member.

"Certainly, I've had opportunities over the years, especially when it was at 11 events," Woods said. "I was very close a couple times and could have taken membership up and played it. But still ... I enjoy playing around the world, and I still always will. But I am going to play this tour." When asked why he never bothered becoming a dual member, Woods said, "It wasn't important to me." □

Miller

Continued from Page 17

In his 16 years as executive director of the Major League Players Association, starting in 1966, Miller fought owners on many fronts, winning free agency — the right to negotiate new contracts with any team — for players in December 1975. He may best be remembered, however, as the man who made the word "strike" stand for something other than a pitched ball.

"I think he's the most important baseball figure of the last 50 years," former Commissioner Fay Vincent said. "He changed not just the sport but the business of the sport permanently, and he truly emancipated the baseball player — and in the process all professional athletes. Prior to his time, they had few rights; at the moment, they control the games."

MLB's revenue has grown from \$50 million in 1967 to \$7.5 billion this year. At his last public speaking engagement, a discussion at New York University School of Law in April marking the 40th anniversary of the first baseball strike, Miller maintained free agency and resulting fan interest contributed to the revenue increase.

"I never before saw such a win-win situation my life, where everybody involved in Major League Baseball, both sides of the equation, still continue to set records in terms of revenue and profits and salaries and benefits," Miller said. "You



In this April 24, 2012 photo provided by the Major League Baseball Players Association, Michael Weiner, left, MLBPA executive director; Marvin Miller, center, former head of the association; and Donald Fehr, former MLBPA executive director and currently the executive director of the NHL Players' Association, gather for a photo at New York University School of Law in New York, where Miller discussed the 40th anniversary of the first baseball strike.

would think that it was impossible to do that. But it is possible, and it is an amazing story how under those circumstances, there can be both management and labor really winning."

Miller, who retired and became a consultant to the union in 1982, led the first walkout in the game's history 10 years earlier. On April 5, 1972, signs posted at major league parks simply said: "No Game Today." The strike, which lasted 13 days, was followed by a walkout during spring training in 1976 and a mid-season job action that darkened the stadiums for seven weeks in 1981.

Baseball had eight work stoppages through 1995 but has labor peace since then. Meanwhile, labor turmoil has engulfed the other

major U.S. pro leagues.

"Marvin exemplified guts, tenacity and an undying love for the players he represented," NFL players' union head DeMaurice Smith said. "He was a mentor to me, and we spoke often and at length. His most powerful message was that players would remain unified during labor strife if they remembered the sacrifices made by previous generations." Slightly built and silver-haired with a thick, dark mustache, Miller trained as an economist and was anything but passive in his dealings with baseball owners.

Miller was elected union president in 1966. Baseball had entered a new era, one in which its owners would have to bargain with a union professional. □

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NFL Roundup

Newton leads Panthers past Eagles 30-22



Philadelphia Eagles cornerback Brandon Boykin, left, breaks up a pass intended for Carolina Panthers wide receiver Brandon LaFell in the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Nov. 26, 2012, in Philadelphia. **Associated Press**

ROB MAADDI

AP Pro Football Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Carolina quarterback Cam Newton threw for two touchdowns and ran for two more to lead the Panthers to a 30-22 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles on Monday in a matchup of two struggling NFL teams. Bryce Brown set a Philadelphia rookie record with 178 yards rushing, including TD runs of 65 and 5 yards, but the Eagles (3-8) still lost their seventh straight game. Brown, making his first start since he was at high school in 2008, filled in for injured running back LeSean Mc-

Coy. While he surpassed Correll Buckhalter's rookie mark, he also lost two fumbles, including one in Panthers' territory.

Fellow Eagles rookie Nick Foles was so-so in his second straight start as quarterback, replacing Michael Vick, who also sat out with a concussion. Foles was 16 of 21 for 119 yards.

Newton, who so far this year hadn't played up to his sensational rookie season, thrived against Philadelphia's porous pass defense. He finished 18 of 28 for 306 yards.

Newton had a 24-yard TD toss over the middle to a

wide-open Gary Barnidge for a 7-3 lead. He connected with a wide-open Brandon LaFell on a 43-yard pass to make it 14-3 later in the first quarter.

The failed marking on LaFell was a continuation of a worrying pattern. In five games since Todd Bowles replaced Juan Castillo as defensive coordinator, the Eagles have allowed 13 passing touchdowns and haven't had an interception. Newton led a 95-yard drive to open the third quarter, hitting Louis Murphy for a 55-yard gain on a second-and-11 from Carolina's 16. Newton finished

it off with a 1-yard leap to give the Panthers a 21-15 lead. The hosts recovered the lead 22-21 when a 51-yard pass interference call on Haruki Nakamura on Foles' deep pass to Jeremy Maclin put Philadelphia at the Panthers 5. Brown ran in for the go-ahead score. Carolina (3-8) again went ahead 24-22 early in the fourth quarter on Graham Gano's 23-yard field goal. Then the Panthers finally stopped Brown when it mattered most, on a fourth-and-1 to take over on downs at their 40-yard line. Newton led them downfield, running in from the

2 to make it 30-22. Gano, signed last week, missed the extra point. But Brandon Boykin fumbled after a 44-yard kickoff return, the Panthers recovered and held the ball the final 4:29. The Eagles' seven-game skid had heightened speculation about coach Andy Reid's job. Owner Jeffrey Lurie already has said that an 8-8 record would be "unacceptable" this year. The Eagles would have to finish 5-1 just to get there. The injury-depleted Eagles lost wide receiver DeSean Jackson (sternum) and defensive tackle Fletcher Cox (pelvis) in the first half. □

NFL playoffs taking shape, and still a month to go

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — More than a month from the end of the NFL season, nearly every division race is decided.

The Atlanta Falcons and Denver Broncos have four-game leads and can earn titles with victories on Sunday, although the Falcons also need the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to lose — coincidentally, to the Broncos, who don't need any help if they win to walk off with the AFC West.

The Falcons (10-1) get an early start by hosting New Orleans on Thursday. Considering the rivalry, and that Atlanta's only defeat this season has been to the Saints, taking the NFC South crown merely adds to the team's already soaring incentives.

"Ten and one is great, but I'll tell you what I've said since the beginning of the season: We're just jockeying for position," star Falcons tight end Tony Gonzalez said. "We just want to put ourselves in the best position, playing the best football. Right around this time is when you want to start jelling as a team and take it on into the playoffs because that's the most important thing."

Denver (8-3) already has swept San Diego, so one more victory puts Peyton Manning back in the playoffs with his new team. Oddly, Manning's Indianapolis Colts didn't always fare so well after winning their division early, but every coach, including his latest one, John Fox, will say that owning a postseason berth overrides any potential negatives.

"We can't influence what everyone else does over the last five games," Fox said. "We know we have to take care of this week and that'll be our mindset."

Manning's mindset is to keep the foot on the accelerator regardless of the standings.

"You certainly always want to get better late in the season," he said. "You either get better, or you get worse and our goal is to get



Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning (18) is sacked by Atlanta Falcons strong safety William Moore (25) during the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Sept. 17, 2012, in Atlanta. Associated Press



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) reacts after a touchdown against the Indianapolis Colts in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012. Associated Press

better every week."

The Baltimore Ravens (9-2) can grab the AFC North crown by beating visiting Pittsburgh and having Cincinnati lose at San Diego. A division race that most projected to be tight barely will get into December if that happens.

The Ravens should be thankful if that occurs, because they are as banged-up as anybody and they wouldn't need to rush defensive leader Ray Lewis back onto the field.

Baltimore also would like nothing more than to spend the entire playoffs at home, where it is 5-0 — especially if it can avoid a trip to Houston, where the

Texans routed the Ravens 43-13 last month.

Houston (10-1) is in the unusual position of owning the AFC's best record, yet not being in line for an immediate clinching. Even if the Texans win at Tennessee on Sunday and the AFC South runner-up, the Colts, fall at Detroit, the division remains unsolved because Indianapolis and Houston meet twice in the final three weeks.

A wild-card berth is within reach for the Texans, but that's hardly what they're aiming for.

No team wants to trek to Foxborough in the playoffs, even if the New England Patriots have been elimi-

nated from the Super Bowl chase at home in two of the last three years. New England (8-3) can wrap up the AFC East by beating Miami on Sunday because the Patriots would own all of the necessary tiebreakers in the division.

Coach Bill Belichick is not likely to let up a bit even when that happens. Did anyone notice how long quarterback Tom Brady was on the field during the 49-19 romp over the Jets on Thanksgiving, a game decided in the second period?

The only truly close division through 11 games is the

NFC North, where the Chicago Bears (8-3) have a one-game edge on Green Bay, but have lost to the Packers. The Bears also lost a handful of starters to injuries last Sunday, so holding off the Packers could be problematic. Of course, Green Bay also is plagued by injuries to stars such as Clay Matthews, Greg Jennings and Charles Woodson.

That one could go down to the season finales, when the Bears are at Detroit and the Packers visit the Minnesota Vikings, who are in the wild-card race. Green Bay is at Chicago on Dec. 16.

Both of last season's NFC championship game teams are in good shape in their divisions, but could be tested before clinching. The Super Bowl champion New York Giants are two games up on the Washington Redskins and Dallas Cowboys, and they are at Washington on Monday. The Redskins have a better record within the NFC East and might push New York to the limit if they can win.

The San Francisco 49ers' rare tie has not hurt their standing in the standings. At 8-2-1, they lead Seattle by 2 1/2 games, and the Seahawks have dropped all three NFC West contests. The teams meet on Dec. 23 at Seattle, but by then it could be too late to make any difference. □



Injured Baltimore Ravens' Ray Lewis reacts to wide receiver Torrey Smith's catch against the San Diego Chargers during overtime of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 25, 2012, in San Diego. Associated Press

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Thunder build huge early lead, beat Bobcats 114-69

NBA Capsules

The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) —

Kevin Durant scored 18 points and the Oklahoma City Thunder opened a 40-point halftime lead in one of the most lopsided first halves in NBA history on their way to a 114-69 blow-out of the Charlotte Bobcats on Monday night.

Russell Westbrook had 12 points and 11 assists before he and the rest of Oklahoma City's starters were pulled less than 5 minutes into the second half with the Thunder leading 79-25. Westbrook powered home a right-handed slam to put an exclamation point on the first half and put Oklahoma City up 64-24. It was the fifth-biggest halftime lead in NBA's shot clock era and the largest since Golden State set the record with an 88-41 edge on Sacramento on Nov. 2, 1991, according to STATS.

It was the largest blowout ever for Charlotte, which had shown promise with seven early wins — the same number it had last season while setting an NBA record for futility. NETS 96, KNICKS 89, OT NEW YORK (AP) — The Nets worked overtime to pull out the opener of their new-look rivalry with the Knicks, winning to tie their city rivals for first place.

Jerry Stackhouse, wearing the No. 42 Jackie Robinson made famous in Brooklyn, made the tiebreaking 3-pointer with 3:31 left in overtime as the Nets controlled the extra period of a playoff-like game that neither team led by more than seven.

Brook Lopez had 22 points

and 11 rebounds, and Deron Williams added 16 points and 14 assists as the Nets improved to 7-1 in their new home and tied the Knicks atop the Atlantic Division at 9-4.

Carmelo Anthony had 35 points and 13 rebounds, but was only 10 of 16 at the free throw line. Tyson Chandler finished with 28 points and 10 boards, but no other Knicks player was in double figures.

PISTONS 108, TRAIL BLAZERS 101

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — Brandon Knight scored 16 of his 26 points in the first half, outplaying Damian Lillard in a matchup of young guards and leading the Pistons to a victory over the Trail Blazers.

Lillard entered the day as the NBA's top rookie scorer, averaging 19.6 points per game.

He missed his first 12 shots from the field against the Pistons.

Detroit is 4-3 since dropping its first eight games. The Pistons won for the first time when allowing more than 90 points.

LaMarcus Aldridge was back in the lineup for Portland after missing a game with back spasms. He scored 32 points but didn't have enough help with Lillard struggling.

SPURS 118, WIZARDS 92

WASHINGTON (AP) — Boris Diaw scored 16 points, Tiago Splitter had 15 points and 12 rebounds and Tony Parker added 15 to help the Spurs win their fourth straight over the still-winless Washington Wizards.

The Wizards are the 12th team in NBA history to start the season 0-12 according to STATS and are six away

from equaling the New Jersey Nets' record 0-18 start in 2009-10. In their first 11 games, Washington lost by a total of just 72 points and never by more than 16.

The Spurs had seven players in double figures as they continued their successful road trip. Tim Duncan had 14, Gary Neal 13, Manu Ginobili 12 and Matt Bonner had 11. After winning the first four games of the six-game trip, they're now 8-1 on the road and 12-3 overall.

GRIZZLIES 84, CAVALIERS 78 MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Zach Randolph and Marc Gasol scored 19 points each and the Memphis Grizzlies overcame a lethargic performance to escape with a victory over the Cavaliers.

Rudy Gay scored 15 points, and Quincy Pondexter had 10 points, including 2 of 3 from outside the arc as Memphis won its second straight and maintained its position with the best record in the NBA.

Anderson Varejao and Dion Waiters scored 15 each to lead Cleveland, Varejao grabbing 22 rebounds, including eight offensive boards. Daniel Gibson scored 11 for the Cavs, who lost their third straight and ninth in the last 10.

The Cavaliers still held the lead with 8:28 left, but Memphis closed the game on a 13-4 run, part of the Grizzlies outscoring Cleveland 22-9.

BUCKS 93, BULLS 92

CHICAGO (AP) — Ersan Ilyasova scored 14 of his 18 points in the second half and the Bucks overcame a 27-point deficit in a stunning win over the Bulls.

Richard Hamilton scored a



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) passes to a teammate in front of Charlotte Bobcats' Kemba Walker (15), Byron Mullens, second from right, and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Monday, Nov. 26, 2012. Oklahoma City won 114-69.

Associated Press

season-high 30 points for the Bulls but missed a shot at the buzzer that could have won it.

Ilyasova led a 31-4 second half-run as the Bucks

snapped a nine-game losing streak to Chicago and prevented the Bulls from moving past Milwaukee into first place in the Central Division. □

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By: Dr. Carlos Viana

The Ring of the Bell

While studying in the People's Republic of China I would accompany medical colleagues shopping to check out bells for sale which we would hit with a wooden mallet and listening to the tones produced. The ringing bell tone would be evaluated for its "purity", stimulating a discussion among us. The tone of one bell would be compared to another. A pleasant lunch period spent in Shanghai's old section. Perhaps one of the nicest things was the ability to walk away from the ringing in your ears.

In the United States alone over 50 million Americans experience a ringing in their ears that does not go away. Tinnitus is the medical term for the perception of sound in one or both ears or in the head when no external sound is present. It is often referred to as "ringing in the ears," because the word comes from Latin and means "to tinkle or to ring like a bell." Some people hear hissing, roaring, whistling, chirping, or clicking. Tinnitus can be intermittent or constant-with single or multiple tones-and its perceived volume can range from subtle to shattering.

About 12 million

people in the U.S. have severe enough tinnitus to seek medical attention. And about two million patients are so seriously debilitated that they cannot function on a "normal." Wow, this is serious. The exact physiological cause or causes of tinnitus are not known. There are, however, several likely sources, which are known to trigger or worsen tinnitus.

Noise induced hearing loss - Exposure to loud noises, like carnival parades, concerts or night clubs can damage or destroy hair cells, called cilia, in the inner ear. Once damaged, these cannot be renewed or replaced. Millions have hearing loss due to noise exposure, and 90 percent of tinnitus patients have some level of noise-induced hearing loss. Wax build-up in the ear canal - The amount of wax ears produce varies and sometime compromises hearing. If you produce a lot of earwax, come in to our clinic to have the excess removed almost magically with a process called Ear Coning or Candling. A hollow candle is inserted into the outside of the ear and is lit so that the warmth flows down the candle melting the excess wax and pulls it out of your ear without touching or harming the inner ear. It's great for getting sand or water out of the ears of children after a day at the beach. You should never manu-

ally try to remove it with a cotton swab; you are only pushing the wax to the back of your ear canal. Certain medications - Some medications are toxic to the ear. Other medications will produce tinnitus as a side effect without damaging the inner ear. Effects, which can depend on the dosage, may be temporary or permanent. Before taking any medication, make sure that your physician is aware of your tinnitus.

Ear or sinus infections - I always know I have a fever when the bells start in my ears. Many people, including children, experience tinnitus along with ear or sinus infection. Generally, it will lessen and go away once the infection is healed. Not only viruses and bacteria cause sinus difficulties. Foods and chemical intolerances can cause sinus problems. Cow's milk, including in baby formula is one of the most offensive, mucus producing foods today. Ask at our clinic or your nutritionist about testing for food & chemical sensitivities. You should ask your dentist about jaw misalignment. Some people have misaligned jaw joints or muscles, which can not only induce tinnitus, but also affect cranial muscles, nerves and shock absorbers in the jaw joint. Dentists and Chiropractors specialize in temporomandibular jaw misalignment

(TMJ) and can provide assistance with treatment. Cardiovascular disease - Approximately 3 percent of tinnitus patients experience pulsatile tinnitus; they typically hear a rhythmic pulsing, often in time with a heartbeat. This can indicate the presence of a vascular condition like a heart murmur, hypertension, or hardening of the arteries. Certain types of tumors - Very rarely, people have a benign and slow-growing tumor on their auditory, vestibular, or facial nerves. These tumors can cause tinnitus, deafness, facial paralysis, and loss of balance. Physical trauma to the head and neck can induce tinnitus, headaches, vertigo, and memory loss.

As an Oriental Medical Doctor I "read" your ringing ears in your pulse diagnoses. Considering your ears we check your kidneys because the kidneys "open" into the ears. However, in the case of tinnitus, many other organs also can influence your ears. The gall- bladder channel, for example, flows through the ear and can be involved in ear problems. Emotional problems like anger can produce "liver fire" which may rise upwards to disturb the ears. Emotions such as sadness, grief, and worry which weaken Lungs and Heart energies may also lead to your ringing ears.

Get the Point! Your ringing ears are not only a

problem in your ears. They represent an overall body problem. Diagnosing the imbalance in your whole body's energy and taking responsibility in your lifestyle is a critical first step to quieting the noise in your ears. Acupuncture and nutrition can quiet the bell and put you back on track to a healthy lifestyle.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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Integrity of Internet is crux of global conference

By ERIC PFANNER

PARIS — A commercial and ideological clash is set for next week, when representatives of more than 190 governments, along with telecommunications companies and Internet groups, gather in Dubai for a once-in-a-generation meeting. The subject: Control of the Internet, politically and commercially.

The stated purpose of the World Conference on International Telecommunications is to update a global treaty on technical standards needed to, say, connect a telephone call from Tokyo to Timbuktu. The previous conference took place in 1988, when the Internet was in its infancy and telecommunications remained a highly regulated, mostly analog-technology business.

Now the Internet is the backbone for worldwide communications and commerce. Critics of the International Telecommunication Union, the agency of the United Nations that is organizing the meeting, see a dark agenda in the meeting. The blogosphere has been raging over supposed plans led by Russia to snatch control of the Internet and hand it to the U.N. agency.

That seems unlikely. Any such move would require an international consensus, and opposition is widespread. Terry D. Kramer, the former Vodafone executive who is the United States ambassador to the conference, has vowed to veto any change in how the Internet is overseen.

Analysts say the real business of the conference is business. "The far bigger issue — largely obscured by this discussion — are pro-



Screen shot of a video on Google's "Take Action" site, which argues against "a closed-door meeting in December to increase censorship and regulate the Internet."

posals that are more likely to succeed that envision changing the way we pay for Internet services," Michael Geist, an Internet law professor at the University of Ottawa, said by e-mail.

Hamadoun Touré, secretary general of the I.T.U., has repeatedly said that the U.N. group has no desire to take over the Internet or to stifle its growth. On the contrary, he says, one of the main objectives of the conference is to spread Internet access to more of the four and a half billion people around the world who still do not use it.

And yet, groups as diverse as Google, the Internet Society, the International Trade Union Confederation and Greenpeace warn that the discussions could set a bad precedent, encouraging governments to step up censorship or take other actions that would threaten the integrity of the Internet.

"This is a very important moment in the history of the Internet, because this conference may introduce practices that are inimical to its continued growth and openness," Vinton G. Cerf, vice president and chief Internet evangelist at Google, said in a conference call.

Google set up a Web site last week, "Take Action," encouraging visitors to sign a petition for a "free and open Internet." The campaign is modeled on the successful drive last winter to defeat legislative proposals to crack down on Internet piracy in the United States.

More energy is expected to be spent on how companies make money off the Internet. In one submission to the conference, the European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association, a lobbying group based in Brussels that represents companies like France Télécom, Deutsche Telekom and Telecom Italia, proposed that network operators be permitted to assess charges for content providers like Internet video companies that use a lot of bandwidth.

Analysts say the proposal is an acknowledgment by European telecommunications companies that they cannot hope to provide digital content. "The telecoms realize that they have lost the battle," said Paul Budde, an independent telecommunications analyst in Australia. "They are saying, 'We can't beat the Googles and the Facebooks, so let's try to charge

them.' " The European lobbying group says that without the new fees, there will be no money to invest in network upgrades needed to deal with a surge in traffic. Regulators have required European telecommunications operators to open their networks to rivals, and the market for broadband is fiercely competitive, with rock-bottom prices.

In the United States, by contrast, most telecommunications companies have been permitted to maintain local monopolies — or duopolies, with cable companies — in broadband, keeping prices higher. And American regulators have ordered broadband pro-

viders to give equal priority to all Internet traffic. "Models that try to force payment terms between nations and telecom operators run a huge risk of cutting off traffic," Mr. Kramer said in an interview. "Liberalized markets are the only way to expand the success of the Internet." People who have been briefed on the conference submissions say that not a single European government delegation has endorsed the telecommunications operators' proposal, and the European Parliament has passed a resolution denouncing it. Only governments, not private groups or companies, can put items on the meeting agenda. □

UN nuclear agency reports being hacked

VIENNA (AP) — The International Atomic Energy Agency acknowledged Tuesday that one of its servers had been hacked after a previously unknown group critical of Israel's undeclared nuclear weapons program posted contact details for more than 100 experts working for the U.N. nuclear watchdog.

A group called "Parastoo" — Farsi for the swallow bird and a common Iranian girl's name — claimed responsibility for posting the names on its website two days ago.

Israel is commonly acknowledged to possess nuclear weapons but has neither confirmed or denied its status. It says Iran is secretly working to make nuclear arms — something Tehran denies — and describes the Islamic republic as the greatest threat to the Mideast. But Iran and Arab countries say the Jewish state's nuclear capacities pose the greatest menace.

Chastising Israel for its "nuclear arsenal," the hackers urged the experts whose names they published to sign a petition demanding an "open investigation" into Israel's nuclear program.

IAEA spokeswoman Gill Tudor said the agency "deeply regrets this publication of information stolen from an old server." She said the server had been shut down some time ago and agency experts had been working to eliminate any "possible vulnerability" in it even before it was hacked.

The IAEA was doing "everything possible to help ensure that no further information is vulnerable," she said in an email. □

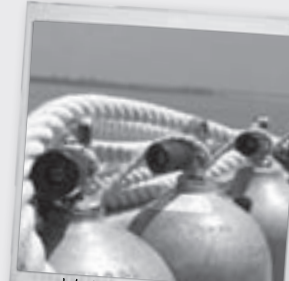
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US orders up 1.7% for core capital goods

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) —

U.S. companies in October increased their orders of machinery and equipment that signal investment plans by the largest amount in five months, a hopeful sign for future economic growth.

Orders for core capital goods, considered a proxy for business investment, rose 1.7 percent in October, the best showing since a 2.3 percent rise in May, the Commerce Department said Tuesday.

Orders in this category had slowed beginning in the spring, acting as a drag on overall economic growth. Total orders for durable goods were unchanged in October at \$216.9 billion following a 9.2 percent jump in September that had been driven by a surge in demand for commercial aircraft.

In October, demand for machinery, primary metals and communications equipment increased while orders for autos, airplanes and computers fell.

Many businesses had been holding back because they are worried about tax increases and federal spending cuts — known as the “fiscal cliff” —

that will take effect in January unless Congress reaches a budget deal before then.

Most economists predict the economy will suffer a recession in the first half of 2013 if lawmakers and President Barack Obama can't avoid the fiscal cliff. □

Stocks slide on renewed ‘fiscal cliff’ fear

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks slumped on Wall Street Tuesday after Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said he was frustrated by the lack of progress in talks over the U.S. budget impasse in Washington.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 89.24 points, or 0.7 percent, to 12,878.13. The Dow and other indexes had been moving between small gains and losses for most of the day, then turned lower after Reid's comments in the early afternoon.

“We have to get away from the happy talk and start talking about specific things,” Reid told reporters in televised comments.

The Standard & Poor's 500 lost 7.35 points to 1,398.94 and the Nasdaq composite index lost 8.99 points to 2,967.79.

Worries about the budget talks have been hanging over the stock market for weeks. Stocks slumped im-

mediately after the Nov. 6 election over concerns that politicians would be unable to reach a deal to trim the deficit before a Jan. 1 deadline. If that deadline

come to be known as the “fiscal cliff.”

“The markets are getting whipped around, rather sharply, on headlines,” said Sal Arnuk, co-founder



Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange, in New York. Investors are taking little comfort from the latest deal to deliver financial aid to Greece and increases in U.S. consumer confidence and orders for machinery and equipment.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

isn't met, under current law a series of sharp tax increases and spending cuts will come into effect. Economists have warned that the measures could push the economy back into a recession. That deadline has

at Themis Trading. “For example, Harry Reid feeling we're not making enough progress on the fiscal cliff.” Last week stocks pared some of the losses that followed the election. President Barack Obama

plans to make a public case this week for his strategy for dealing with the issue as he pressures Republicans to allow tax increases on the wealthy while extending tax cuts for families earning \$250,000 or less. The S&P declined as much as 5 percent in the weeks after voters returned a divided government to power, with Obama returning to the White House and Republicans retaining control of the House. Earlier in the day, investors took little comfort from the latest deal to deliver financial aid to Greece and increases in U.S. consumer confidence and orders for machinery and equipment. While stocks have gained this year as the Federal Reserve has maintained its bond-buying stimulus program, concern about global growth and the budget fight in Washington may limit further advances, said Uri Landesman, President of Platinum Partners, a New York-based hedge fund. □

Home prices rise in most major US cities

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Home prices increased in September in most major U.S. cities, more evidence of a housing recovery that is providing a lift to the fragile economy.

Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller reported Tuesday that its 20-city index of home prices rose 3 percent in September compared with the same month last year. Prices also gained 3.6 percent in the July-September quarter compared with the same quarter in 2011.

Across the U.S., prices in-

creased in 18 of 20 cities over the 12-month period. In Phoenix, prices jumped 20.4 percent over that stretch to lead all cities. Prices in Atlanta showed a modest 0.1 percent increase, ending 26 straight consecutive year-over-year declines.

Prices also rose in September from August in 13 cities. Five metro regions posted declines, while two were unchanged.

In Las Vegas, one of the hardest hit during the housing crisis, prices increased 1.4 percent — the biggest month-over-month gain. Prices rose 1.1 percent in

Phoenix and Minneapolis. The largest decline was in Cleveland, where prices fell 0.9 percent.

Monthly prices are not seasonally adjusted, so some of the declines may signal the end of the summer buying period.

David M. Blitzer, chairman of the Case-Shiller index, said that when adjusting for seasonal factors, only one city showed a decline in September versus two in August. “Despite the seasons, housing continues to improve,” Blitzer said.

The S&P/Case-Shiller index covers roughly half of U.S.

homes. It measures prices compared with those in January 2000 and creates a three-month moving average. The September figures are the latest available.

Steady increases in home prices have helped drive a modest recovery in the housing market. Rising prices encourage more potential buyers to come off the sidelines and purchase homes.

And more people may put their homes on the market as they gain confidence that they can sell at a good price. □

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US consumer confidence hits 4 1/2 year high

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumer confidence rose this month to its highest level in almost five years, helped by a better outlook for hiring over the next six months. The Conference Board said Tuesday that its consumer confidence index rose to 73.7 in November from 73.1 in October. Both are the best readings since February 2008. The index is still below the level of 90 that is consistent with a healthy economy. It last reached that point in December 2007, the first month of the Great Recession. But the index has increased from the all-time low of 25.3 touched in February 2009. Higher consumer confidence could translate into a more robust holiday shopping season and stronger economic growth. Consumer spending drives

nearly 70 percent of economic activity. The report also supported the findings of a separate survey from

Still, both surveys increased at slower rates than the previous month. Americans are growing



Tonya Thomas shops at Best Buy in Bowling Green, Ky. U.S. consumer confidence rose this month to its highest level in almost five years, helped by a better outlook for hiring over the next six months. The Conference Board said Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012, that its consumer confidence index rose to 73.7 in November from 73.1 in October. Both are the best readings since February 2008.
(AP Photo/Daily News, Alex Slitz)

the University of Michigan released last week, which showed consumer sentiment at a five-year high.

more optimistic because they see the job market improving, the Conference Board said. Employers add-

ed 171,000 jobs in October and more jobs were created in August and September than first thought. The Conference Board surveyed approximately 2,500 households in the first two weeks of the month. Those surveyed were asked how they felt about the economy and job market now, as well as where they see both going in six months. They were also asked if they planned to make a major purchase or take a vacation in the next six months. The survey found that most people viewed current conditions the same as in October. But the percentage of Americans who expect more jobs to be avail-

able in the next six months rose to 20.3 percent, from 19.7 percent in October. And the percentage of Americans who say jobs are "plentiful" rose to 11.2 percent from 10.4 percent in the previous month. That's the highest level in four years and a good sign for hiring this month. More Americans said they plan to buy a home, an appliance or take a vacation, the survey found. About 6.9 percent said they planned to buy a home, the highest on record. But the percentage expecting to buy a car fell. Confidence among households earning \$50,000 and higher slipped to 88 from 91.7 in October. □

In nearly \$5 billion deal:

ConAgra Foods to buy Ralcorp

MICHAEL J. DE LA MERCED
STEPHANIE STROM
© 2012 New York Times

After being rejected last year, ConAgra Foods agreed Tuesday to buy Ralcorp Holdings for roughly \$5 billion in cash, reviving an effort to form the largest producer of private label packaged food in North America. Under the terms of the deal, Ralcorp shareholders would receive \$90 a share in cash, 28 percent above Ralcorp's closing price Monday. Including debt, the transaction is valued at about \$6.8 billion. Together, the two would have \$4.5 billion in annual sales of private label

goods, made for bakeries, grocery chains, restaurants and other food service customers. "Ralcorp is already the largest private label food company in the U.S. and is well positioned for future growth," Gary M. Rodkin, chief executive of ConAgra Foods, said in a statement. "Adding Ralcorp provides us with a much larger presence in the attractive and growing private label segment." Once regarded as the stepchildren of the food aisles, private label products have become brands in their own right as grocery store retailers have used them to set themselves

apart from competitors. Over the years, retailers invested heavily in improving the quality of their food products as well as the packaging and merchandising. Now, they have become ubiquitous among convenience stores, club stores, big box retailers and specialty concepts like Whole Foods and Trader Joe's. When the economy was weak, consumers snapped up such private label brands, although a new report out on Tuesday from the SymphonyIRI Group, a market research firm, suggests that the growth of private label brands might be slowing. □



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		9	1	7	6			
			5			6		
8		6					2	
6	9				7			3
	1						9	
3	8	4						7
4	5		7				6	
2				6	9	1		
			8	2				

Difficulty Level ★★

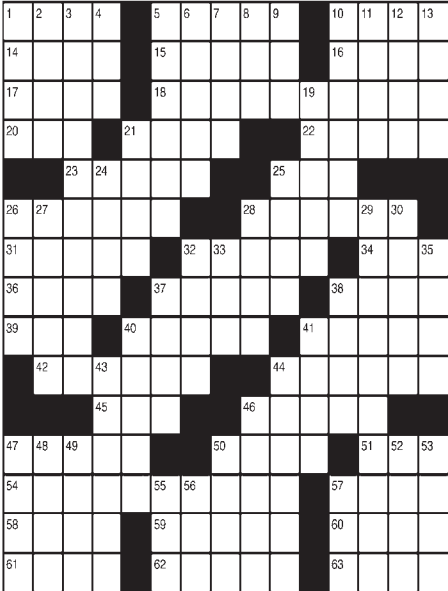
11/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

6	9	7	2	1	5	8	4	3
3	4	1	9	7	8	6	2	5
2	5	8	4	3	6	1	9	7
8	3	5	6	4	2	9	7	1
9	6	4	1	8	7	3	5	2
7	1	2	3	5	9	4	8	6
5	7	6	8	9	1	2	3	4
1	8	3	5	2	4	7	6	9
4	2	9	7	6	3	5	1	8

ACROSS

- 1 up on; study
- 5 Fight off
- 10 Incisions
- 14 In a lazy way
- 15 Steer clear of
- 16 Large continent
- 17 Womanizer's glance
- 18 Retirees
- 20 off; irritate
- 21 Mattel's male dolls of the '60s
- 22 TV's "Green"
- 23 Britain
- 25 "Blessed the meek..."
- 26 Show off
- 28 Priest or minister
- 31 Numerical comparison
- 32 Wide
- 34 Scottish denial
- 36 "Brockovich"
- 37 Composer George M.
- 38 Sound of a dull plop
- 39 Self-esteem
- 40 Fortune-teller's deck of cards
- 41 Dwelling
- 42 Audience's demand
- 44 Actress Electra
- 45 "I've it"; quitter's phrase
- 46 Reed or Fargo
- 47 Peru's Indians
- 50 Praise
- 51 Badminton court divider
- 54 Walking leisurely
- 57 -de-camp; military position
- 58 Uplifting tune
- 59 ray; oceanic devilish
- 60 Celebrity
- 61 Building wings
- 62 Complete; total
- 63 Choir song



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

11/28/12

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

DAM	SHAVE	SACK
ODOR	LOGAN	PLAN
NAPE	EROSE	IDLE
MESSAGE	NGER	GALE
CAVE	GOO	
MOTIVE	PRINTERS	
INANE	BOOZE	RAM
FIND	PEKOE	ERGO
FOG	CHEEK	CREEK
SNOBBERY	WOODSY	
USA	WILD	
THUS	SEMANTICS	
HOST	AVOID	NOAH
ABEL	NERVE	GAGA
NOSE	TREED	LAY

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11/28/12

DOWN

- 1 Public uprising
- 38 Having mixed feelings
- 40 Drink to
- 41 over; deliver
- 43 Sings in a monotone
- 44 Mountain lion
- 46 Most famous Italian poet
- 47 of Wight
- 48 Tack
- 49 Cherry-pick
- 50 Dryer residue
- 52 Dutch cheese
- 53 Seabird
- 55 Australian bird
- 56 on; betray
- 57 Bit of soot

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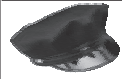


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This March 12, 2012 file photo shows actors, from left, Michael Cerveris, Elena Roger and Ricky Martin at the curtain call after their first performance in the new Broadway production of "Evita", in New York. Cerveris, Roger and Martin will perform their final performances on Jan. 26, 2013.

Associated Press

Big 3 from 'Evita' chose to leave in January

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Big Three in the Broadway musical "Evita" — Ricky Martin, Elena Roger and Michael Cerveris — will leave the show together after the Jan. 26 performance. Producers of the Tony Award-nominated revival of Tim Rice's and Andrew Lloyd Webber's landmark musical said Monday night

the show will continue its open-ended run, and new stars will be announced at a later date.

The revival opened on March 12 at Broadway's Marquis Theatre, directed by Michael Grandage and choreographed by Rob Ashford. It has broken the theater's box office record seven times, but now faces a tough time filling its three main roles. □

'Two and a Half Men' actor not expected on set

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The teenage actor who stars in "Two and a Half Men" and called his CBS comedy "filth" will have some time before he faces the show's producers. Angus T. Jones wasn't expected at rehearsal Tuesday because he is not going to be in the episode they are filming, according to a person close to the show who spoke on condition of anonymity because producers were not commenting publicly.

Jones, 19, has been on the show, which used to feature bad-boy actor Charlie Sheen and remains heavy with sexual innuendo, since he was 10 but says in a video posted online by a Christian church that he doesn't want to be on it anymore. "Please stop watching it," Jones said.

"Please stop filling your head with filth." A person familiar with the production schedule said Jones does not appear in



In this March 12, 2012 file photo, actor Angus T. Jones arrives at the Paleyfest panel discussion of the television series "Two and a Half Men" in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

either of the two episodes filming before the end of the year, so he wouldn't be expected back at work until after the New Year.

His character has been largely absent because he has joined the Army.

CBS and producer Warner Bros. Television have not commented.

"Two and a Half Men" survived a wild publicity ride

less than two years ago, when Sheen was fired for his drug use and publicly complained about the network and the show's creator, Chuck Lorre.

Sheen later said he wasn't still angry at the sitcom's producers and the network and acknowledged he would have fired himself had he been in their shoes. □

Broadway and film producer Martin Richards dies

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Martin Richards, the Tony Award-winning producer behind such Broadway hits as "Sweeney Todd," and "The Will Rogers Follies," has died after battling cancer, his publicist said Tuesday. He was 80.

Publicist Judy Jacksina said Richards died Monday.

In addition to his stage work, Richards was the producer of the original "Chicago" on Broadway and went on to win an Academy Award for producing the film version in 2003. His other films include "The Shining," "Boys From Brazil" and "Fort Apache, The Bronx." The marquees of Broadway theatres will be dimmed in his memory Tuesday night. Richards' shows won more than 40 Tonys during his five decades producing plays and musicals.

"The popularity of his shows has brought many generations to Broadway. He was an admirer of talent, and we were an admirer of his," Charlotte St. Martin, the executive director of The Broadway League, said in a statement.

Richards' other Broadway productions include "Crimes of the Heart," "La Cage Aux Folles," "Grand Hotel" and "The Life."

Richards, along with his late wife, Mary Lea Johnson Richards, was instrumental in founding Broadway Cares/Equity Fights Aids and Meals on Wheels. Richards also created the New York Center for Children to care for abused children and their families.

In a statement, actress Chita Rivera said she had lost a great friend.

"What a privilege to have shared a part of his flam-



In this Sunday, March 23, 2003 file photo, producer Martin Richards accepts the Oscar after the film "Chicago" won for best motion picture of the year at the 75th annual Academy Awards in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

boyant history. Through Marty and his courageous eye and infallible taste, I have inherited gifts I had

never imagined would come my way," Rivera said. Richards most recently produced the new musi-

cal "Big Maybelle: Soul of the Blues" at The Bay Street Theatre in Sag Harbor, New York, this summer. □

Lenny Kravitz to play Marvin Gaye in biopic



This combination of 1983 and 2012 file photos shows Marvin Gaye, left, and Lenny Kravitz. Kravitz has signed on for his first leading film role, playing Gaye in a biopic that will be shot in 2013, according to his publicist on Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Lenny Kravitz has signed on for his first leading film role, playing singer Marvin Gaye in a biopic that will be shot next year.

The rocker's publicist Carleen Donovan confirmed the news Tuesday.

Kravitz has played supporting roles in the past, including a small part in "The Hunger Games."

Rolling Stone first reported

details about the 48-year-old performer's part in the film, directed by Julien Temple.

The magazine says the "Are You Gonna Go My Way" singer will portray Gaye during the 1980s when he was fighting his addictions and attempting to restart his career. Gaye died in 1984 after being shot by his father. □

Amber Tamblyn to make her Broadway debut next year



In this Friday, April 20, 2012 photo, cast member Amber Tamblyn arrives at the "House" series finale wrap party Los Angeles.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Amber Tamblyn, who stars in "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" films and on TV in "House" and "Joan of Arcadia," is heading to Broadway.

Producers said Tuesday that Tamblyn will make her debut in Beth Henley's comedy "The Miss Firecracker Contest" in the spring of 2013. The theater, co-stars and dates will be announced later.

Judith Ivey, who is currently starring on Broadway in "The Heiress" opposite Jessica Chastain, will direct, marking her own directorial Broadway debut.

The comedy, about a young woman who hopes winning a local talent contest will restore her soiled reputation, first appeared in New York off-Broadway in 1984 and was made into a 1989 film starring Holly Hunter, Mary Steenburgen and Tim Robbins. □



This film image released by Sundance Selects shows accused rapist Yusef Salaam being escorted by police in New York in 1990. Salaam is the subject of the documentary, "The Central Park Five," about the 1989 case of five black and Latino teenagers who were convicted of raping a white woman in Central Park.

Associated Press

Review: 'Central Park Five' sets record straight

CHRISTY LEMIRE

AP Movie Critic

"The Central Park Five" takes an emotionally charged subject — the wrongful conviction and imprisonment of five black and Hispanic teenage boys for the rape of a white female jogger — and makes its case in a straightforward, detached manner.

It is thoughtful, educational, understated perhaps to a fault — tonally, the trademark work of veteran documentarian Ken Burns, who directs, writes and produces this time with daughter Sarah Burns, who wrote a book about the crime, and her husband, David McMahon. It efficiently depicts, but doesn't get caught up in, the hysteria of the place and time: a racially and socioeconomically divided New York City in April 1989, when it was rotting with crack cocaine, AIDS and violent crime but also gleaming with the conspicuous consumption of the era.

As veteran New York Times reporter Jim Dwyer puts it: "It's as if there was a social moat that divided these two New Yorks."

The late-night attack on jogger Trisha Meili — then a 28-year-old Wall Street investment banker who's now an author and motivational speaker — became

a symbol of this chasm and everything that seemed wrong with society. And the five young men from Harlem who happened to be running around Central Park with a couple dozen troublemakers that night — Antron McCray, Kevin Richardson, Raymond Santana, Korey Wise and Yusef Salaam — became all-too easy scapegoats.

"The Central Park Five" aims to clear their names publicly, once and for all, in a way that much of the press did not when a judge vacated the young men's convictions in 2002. It also quietly, insistently argues that this was more than just an example of detectives trying to make a name for themselves by quickly wrapping up a high-profile case — the one that introduced the word "wilding" into the vernacular — but rather a major symptom of institutional racism within the department.

For the sake of perspective, it would have been helpful to hear from at least one of the people who investigated or prosecuted the case, or from the tabloids that were so quick to condemn these kids, or even from the victim herself. All declined to participate.

But we do hear extensively from the five who were

accused as they describe the fear of that time and the struggle to regain all they lost during the years they were behind bars. In archival photographs and footage, we see their sad, scared little faces and hear them admit to acts they didn't commit; as they calmly and methodically explain in present-day interviews, they felt coerced to say whatever was necessary to go home.

Contradictory confessions and timeline disparities didn't matter; neither did the fact that none of their DNA was found at the scene. The kids didn't even know where in Central Park the attack took place. Meanwhile, there was a mysterious "sixth perpetrator": serial rapist Matias Reyes, whose intimately detailed confession 13 years after the attack (not to mention a DNA match) set these innocent men free.

So how does this sort of thing happen? Even as "The Central Park Five" seeks satisfactory answers, it stirs outrage and discouragement all over again.

"The Central Park Five," a Sundance Selects release, is not rated but contains language and graphic, violent details. Running time: 119 minutes. Three stars out of four. □

Time For Grover to Roll Over?



FRANK BRUNI

© 2012 New York Times

I once took a long train ride with Grover Norquist. This wasn't intentional. We found ourselves next to each other on the line to board an Acela from Washington, D.C., to New York, and we fell into a conversation, by which I mean that he did a great deal of talking, in that faintly manicured way of his, while I presented a captive audience. He continued to talk as we walked along the platform and was still talking as we entered the train, so it was more or less unavoidable that we sit together. Besides which, I was genuinely fascinated, which is a very different adjective from amused.

This happened earlier this year, around the time that pundits galore were weighing in on whom Mitt Romney should choose as a running mate, and Norquist regaled me with the case for Luis Fortuno. You know, the governor of ... Puerto Rico.

It was quite a case, replete with riffs on the importance of the Puerto Rican vote in Florida and references to Fortuno's degrees from top-tier American universities. But the odds of Fortuno's selection were somewhere between zilch and hell-freezing-over, and it occurred to me that Norquist's railway soliloquy wasn't supposed to be a plausible argument, merely an attention-getting one.

It had less to do with serious policy or sensible politics than with sheer performance. Norquist in a nutshell. Someday someone will write a dark history – a farce, really – of how he managed to bring nearly all of the Republican Party to heel, compelling legislator upon legislator to lash themselves to his no-new-taxes pledge. Until then we'll have to content ourselves with his misfortune over the last few days. No sooner had a nation digested its turkey than his goose began to be cooked.

The spreading rebellion in the Republican ranks was manifest on the post-Thanksgiving Sunday talk shows.

Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina dissed Norquist on ABC's "This Week," saying that "when you're \$16 trillion in debt, the only pledge we should be making to each other is to avoid becoming Greece." On NBC's "Meet the Press," Rep. Peter King of New York also stressed that the coun-

try's current fiscal woes trumped vows made in less debt-ridden times, and over on "Fox News Sunday," Sen. John McCain signaled a receptiveness to new revenue, another dagger to Norquist's dark heart.

All three Republican lawmakers were echoing previous comments of their own and of a small but significant cluster of colleagues, whose numbers continued to grow Monday, when Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, appearing on CBS' "This Morning," pronounced himself "not obligated on the pledge." It's as if some spell has at long last been broken, and the formerly bewitched villagers are rising up to defy their evil overlord and insist on the possibility of life and even mirth without a deduction for corporate jets.

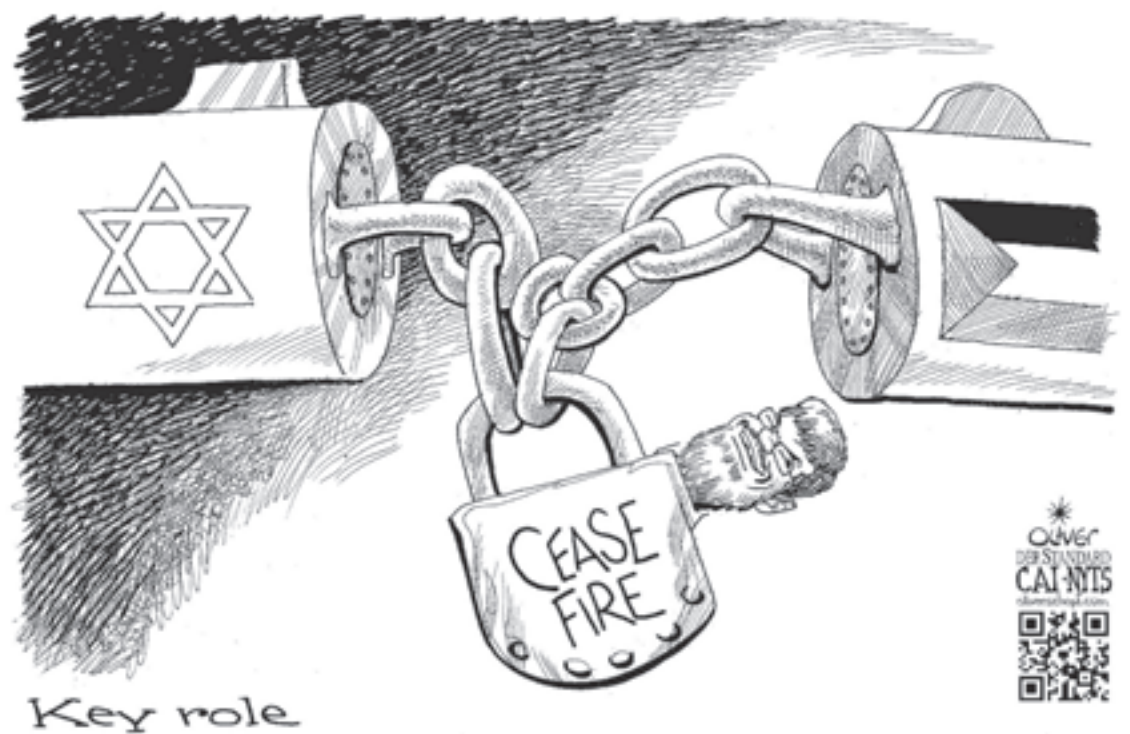
I celebrate this not because I think tax increases are some budget panacea. They're not even close. In fact there's a serious risk of focusing too much on them and too little on entitlement reform and other potential savings, and one of the real values of the Republican Party has been its insistence, in theory if not always in practice, on careful attention to expenditures.

But over recent years the party lost much of its credibility in this discussion, by dint of the lavish spending and escalating debt under George W. Bush and because of a sophomoric, gimmicky purity that's incarnate in Norquist, who has done his party real damage. He might as well have been onstage during that infamous Republican debate in August 2011 when all eight candidates for the party's presidential nomination said that they wouldn't accept even \$1 in tax increases for \$10 in spending reductions. They had devolved into dummies, and Norquist was their ventriloquist.

There's no place for absolutists and absolutism in a democracy, which is designed for give-and-take, for compromise. That's one of the lessons of "Lincoln," which moviegoers are thronging to and intellectuals are swooning for precisely because it illuminates and validates the intrinsic and purposeful messiness of our system. It exalts flexibility. It venerates pragmatism.

And I hope that Republicans and Democrats alike will keep those principles in mind as we approach the fiscal cliff. Norquist certainly hasn't, but then he bears no responsibility for governing and is concerned less with voters and their welfare than with those of us in the news media, who have been too quick to summon him, rewarding his staged and reliable vividness.

In a recent appearance on a Times webcast, he joked that government did need some funding, for "a military strong enough to keep the Canadians on their side of the border," har-har. And he called taxes "thoroughly icky." Then he winked, as if this were all just fun and games. To him, maybe. But the fun is fading fast. □



Fighting Fiscal Phantoms



PAUL KRUGMAN

© 2012 New York Times

These are difficult times for the deficit scolds who have dominated policy discussion for almost three years. One could almost feel sorry for them, if it weren't for their role in diverting attention from the ongoing problem of inadequate recovery, and thereby helping to perpetuate catastrophically high unemployment.

What has changed? For one thing, the crisis they predicted keeps not happening. Far from fleeing U.S. debt, investors have continued to pile in, driving interest rates to historical lows. Beyond that, suddenly the clear and present danger to the American economy isn't that we'll fail to reduce the deficit enough; it is, instead, that we'll reduce the deficit too much. For that's what the fiscal cliff – better described as the austerity bomb – is all about: The tax hikes and spending cuts scheduled to kick in at the end of this year are precisely not what we want to see happen in a still-depressed economy. Given these realities, the deficit-scold movement has lost some of its clout. That movement, by the way, is a hydra-headed beast, comprising many organizations that turn out, on inspection, to be financed and run by more or less the same people; dig down into many of these groups' back stories and you will, in particular, find Peter Peterson, the private-

equity billionaire, playing a key role.

But the deficit scolds aren't giving up. Now yet another organization, Fix the Debt, is campaigning for cuts to Social Security and Medicare, even while making lower tax rates a "core principle." That last part makes no sense in terms of the group's ostensible mission, but makes perfect sense if you look at the array of big corporations, from Goldman Sachs to the United-Health Group, that are involved in the effort and would benefit from tax cuts. Hey, sacrifice is for the little people.

So should we take this latest push seriously? No – and not just because these people, aside from exhibiting a lot of hypocrisy, have been wrong about everything so far. The truth is that at a fundamental level the crisis story they're trying to sell doesn't make sense. You've heard the story many times: Supposedly, any day now investors will lose faith in the United States' ability to come to grips with its budget failures. When they do, there will be a run on Treasury bonds, interest rates will spike, and the U.S. economy will plunge back into recession. This sounds plausible to many people, because it's roughly speaking what happened to Greece. But we're not Greece, and it's almost impossible to see how this could actually happen to a country in our situation.

For we have our own currency – and almost all of our debt, both private and public, is denominated in dollars. So our government, unlike the Greek government, literally can't run out of money. After all, it can print the stuff. So there's almost no risk that the U.S. will default on its debt – I'd say no risk at all if it weren't for the possibility that Republicans would once again try to hold the nation hostage over the debt ceiling.

But if the U.S. government prints money to pay its bills, won't that lead to inflation? No, not if the economy is still depressed.

Now, it's true that investors might start to expect higher inflation some years down the road. They might also push down the value of the dollar. Both of these things, however, would actually help rather than hurt the U.S. economy right now: Expected inflation would discourage corporations and families from sitting on cash, while a weaker dollar would make our exports more competitive. Still, haven't crises like the one envisioned by deficit scolds happened in the past? Actually, no. As far as I can tell, every example supposedly illustrating the dangers of debt involves either a country that, like Greece today, lacked its own currency, or a country that, like Asian economies in the 1990s, had large debts in foreign currencies. Countries with large debts in their own currencies, like France after World War I, have sometimes experienced big loss-of-confidence drops in the value of those currencies – but nothing like the debt-induced recession we're being told to fear. So let's step back for a minute, and consider what's going on here. For years, deficit scolds have held Washington in thrall with warnings of an imminent debt crisis, even though investors, who continue to buy U.S. bonds, clearly believe that such a crisis won't happen; economic analysis says that such a crisis can't happen; and the historical record shows no examples bearing any resemblance to our current situation in which such a crisis actually did happen.

If you ask me, it's time for Washington to stop worrying about this phantom menace – and to stop listening to the people who have been peddling this scare story in an attempt to get their way. □



A page from the bloggers Kevin Burrows and Lawrence Schlossman's book on men's wear. (Handout via The New York Times)

JON CARAMANICA
© 2012 New York Times

These days, what we talk about when we talk about men's wear often isn't men's wear at all. It's bravado. It's the changing role of legacy. It's the infusion of brash young energy into a hidebound, tradition-smug world. As often as not, what we're talking about is hip-hop.

Take, as an example, the new book by Kevin Burrows and Lawrence Schlossman with a name that expresses enthusiasm for men's clothing in such a loud, exuberant manner that it can't be printed here.

In one spread is a photo of a serious-looking young man in a navy blazer, white

oxford and burgundy bow tie. In his hands, he's clutching three 40-ounce bottles of malt liquor. The accompanying text is, more or less, set to the tune of "Salute," by the Harlem rap crew the Diplomats:

Unlikely as it may seem, the long hip-hop-slang-filled poems in this book are a hypertrophied form of what's become the de facto way of discussing men's fashion on the Internet for a generation that learned about Lardini and Isaia from street-style websites, and whose fashion enthusiasm began not in Milan or at F.I.T., but from watching Kanye West videos.

Hip-hop is the lingua franca, and also a blooming shadow influence on the men's wear industry writ large. The Internet — Tumblr, specifically — is full of voracious consumption of men's wear imagery, helping to build an informed consumer and talent pool unlike any before it. Who those people look up to are a slightly older cohort of designers, magazine editors and tastemakers who have become Internet men's wear icons largely for the way they infuse the rebelliousness of their hip-

hop youth into their more traditionally attired selves. More often than not for this generation, hip-hop is the filter, not the text, providing a worldview that preaches the values of opulence

director of Details.

"Hip-hop was a genre that made it cool for guys to care about what they're wearing," said Tong, 32, who grew up in Cherry Hill, N.J., on a diet of Wu-

to retail.

"For a long time in America, when you looked at a guy in a suit, you saw a stiff, especially for a guy of my upbringing and era," Peskowitz said. "It represent-



Josh Peskowitz, men's fashion director of Bloomingdale's, at the company's flagship store in New York. Twenty-something designers, bloggers, editors and stylists who grew up with rap music are bringing bravado to men's wear.

(Chad Batka/The New York Times)

and peacocking. It helped that the menswear world had a few non-rapper heroes of their own to look up to: Those include Josh Peskowitz, men's fashion director at Bloomingdale's, and Eugene Tong, who was recently promoted to style

Tang Clan and Nas before making his way into the world of men's fashion. The same went for Peskowitz, 33, raised in Washington, D.C., and who worked at music and style magazines including The Fader and Vibe before crossing over

ed establishment and we were definitely not about that." The same could apply to Theodore, 37, though to him, to keep a hip-hop influence at arm's length, he said, "would be me not embracing who I am."

He continued: "It's rebellious culture, but it evolves. In fashion there are not enough of us who can transition. You are creating something that is open to all with your culture at the root of it."

Even though these generations see no wall between an embrace of high-end men's fashion and a hip-hop lens to view it through, it's possible that the wave of enthusiasts that follow will have different blends of influences. What's more, these figures, influential as they are, still constitute a small movement inside a much larger, still very insular club.

At least they have one another, though. "It's very apparent that certain things are unknown to certain people," Tong said, adding, "Josh and I have this very specific handshake when we greet each other, and people are like, 'What did you just do?'" □

Pirelli unveils sexy 2013 calendar

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The notoriously sexy Pirelli calendar has come to famously sexy Rio de Janeiro and the result is a demure 2013 edition with not a nude in sight.

The calendar was shot entirely in Rio by celebrated American photojournalist Steve McCurry. It features 11 models who manage to smolder despite being fully clothed. Non-models such as actress Sonia Braga and singer Marisa Monte are also featured.

McCurry said at a news conference Tuesday that the models were chosen not only for their looks but also for their commitment to worthy causes.

The calendar debuted in 1964 as a racy way of promoting Italian tire maker



Photographer Steve McCurry poses with supermodels Petra Nemcova, Summer Rayne Oakes, Kyleigh Kuhn, Hanaa Ben Abdesslem, Liya Kebede, and Elisa Sednaoui at a press conference promoting the 2013 Pirelli Calendar in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012.

(AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

Pirelli.

It has since grown into a

fashion institution, attracting top photographers like

Mario Testino and Mario Sorrenti. □